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THE

AMERICAN JOURNAL

OF

HOMŒOPATHY.

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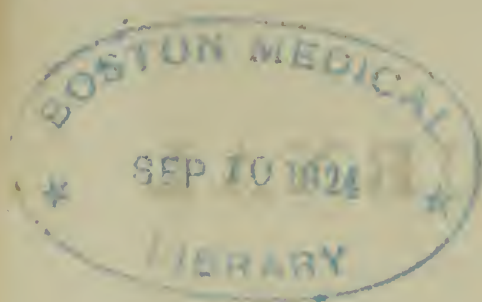
S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of truth."  
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THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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New York, May 1, 1848.

NO. 1.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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NEW YORK, MAY 1, 1848.

INTRODUCTION.

We now commence the labor of another year. After the experience of two years in editing this Journal, some may think the work comparatively easy. But it is not so. Our position is one of responsibility, and we need the aid of our brethren of the school to enable us to prosecute with more success a reform in medicine. We are contending against great odds in the dissemination of the principles we advocate. Our opponents know, if homœopathy prevails, a radical change must necessarily take place in the art of medicine which will greatly interfere with the interests of the elder members of the profession; for it will be rather a difficult task to educate such anew. With the junior members there need be no obstacle on account of age or time to a faithful study of homœopathy, and if these permit themselves to remain in ignorance of our science and art, until age inter-

poses a barrier, if then their interests are affected by the reform, they will richly deserve their fate. The allopathic colleges too, those last lurking places for error, will soon show a more decided opposition than they have yet done; for so long as students are compelled to enter their walls, they will not feel it necessary to use any special exertion to arrest the progress of homœopathy. But the existence of one "Homœopathic Medical College," and the prospect of another, will soon awake those sleepy conservative establishments. Up to this moment they are not aware of the young Homœopathic lion crouching near them, waiting for its mane and claws to grow. Soon its roarings will be heard, its full grown mane be seen shaking, its claws projecting, and with vigor and a favorable position spring upon those who usurp the uppermost seats in the temples of medicine.

The most formidable opposition we have to meet is from those who claim rank in our school but who are not imbued with its true spirit. These must not be denounced, but instructed and encouraged, and by these means and by professional courtesy, they may be induced to a continued recognition of our art.

It is our intention to present our readers with practical matter in each number, as has been the case heretofore. And we solicit the relation of cases from physicians for our columns, especially where groups of symptoms have disappeared after the administration of a remedy. This kind of knowledge is of vast importance to enhance our *Materia Medica*, as well as to add to the testimony of the therapeutic law, and confirm Hahnemann's mode of selecting remedies. We have not thought it best to make this periodical the medium of all sorts of opinions founded in speculations, that some of our well meaning friends occasionally send us; and although we have rejected a few communications of this charac-

ter, it was not from disrespect towards their authors; nor from any intention or desire to control them in their right to opinions differing from our own; but it has been our purpose to publish nothing, but what agrees with the standards of the Homœopathic school; until experiments properly conducted and authenticated shall show, that the commonly received doctrines of the school, or any part of them should be modified. For, we doubt if any practitioner of our art in this country has had sufficient experience in what Hahnemann taught to warrant him in declaring his doctrine and practice especially the latter, erroneous. If it is so in any particular, the entire school in this country, with its combined experience is not yet properly prepared to point out in what the errors consist. We urge, therefore, a continued, and most careful daily testing of Hahnemann's practice in all diseases, and a copious publication of the details of the practice and the results.

By the publication of this Journal, we have no private ends to subserve, except those in common with every physician of the school; for if through our agency the interests of Homœopathy are promoted, all practitioners of the art, will feel the benefit with ourselves.

And because of this view of the subject, we do not hesitate to ask every homœopathic physician in our country to aid in its circulation.

MEDICAL COLLEGES.

Those who are qualified, perceive no union of opinions or sentiments—no resemblance—no conformity—no similitude—no concord or harmony between the Allopathic and Homœopathic schools of medicine. In vain have *eclectics* sought a middle ground upon which these schools could meet and harmonise. Experience as well as theory proves, a combination of pure Allopathy and pure Homœopathy incompatible: the result of such an effort is a sort of *mongrel art* in medicine, which is without true physiological, pathological and therapeutical principles, and directly or indirectly hurtful to human life. Homœopathy is exclusive in its character; and so is allopathy. They cannot be otherwise. In the former, we are not dealing with conventional rules which may be changed at the will of their authors, but with nature's laws, which do not change. Therefore allopathic medical

colleges do not pretend to, nor cannot impart instruction to aid students in the attainment of a knowledge of the science and art of homœopathy. This must be accomplished by means of schools and colleges of our own. We rejoice to learn that the legislature of Pennsylvania have granted a charter for a college entitled "The Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia." This marks a new era in the history of our school, and we shall no longer be compelled to urge, as has been done, the appointment of professorships of homœopathy, in allopathic colleges: a scheme we never could sanction.

Having, therefore, a regularly chartered College, it is essential in its organization to introduce every necessary reform, which the interests of the different branches of the healing art, and the profession have long demanded. There should be no imitation of any thing in existing colleges, that does not tend to qualify students to perform their duties truly and faithfully in the character of accomplished physicians and surgeons. Such will receive the full confidence of an intelligent community; and with such, there can be no competition with quacks and quackery.

The allopathic school complains of her colleges; she seeks a reform, but only two measures have been proposed:—A better primary education on the part of students; and an extended period for medical studies. These, if adopted in that school would not amount to much, as may be seen in the want of success in the treatment of diseases, by the most accomplished of her physicians—and for this plain reason, the doctrines they teach, are not only false but pernicious—and false doctrines in medicine, however well understood, and however great the skill by which they are employed, can never result successfully in practice. Allopathy has failed to meet the reasonable expectation of invalids; diseases remain uncured in the hands of the ablest men of that school. This is not the mere assertion of the ignorant, envious and malicious, but it is a sober, solemn truth, uttered by learned and experienced members of that school; and thousands upon thousands bear in their own persons the evidence of that fact. In view of the deplorable condition of the healing art, a fearful responsibility rests upon homœopathic physicians; for to them a diseased world looks for relief. Homœopathy is the only true system of medicine. This is proved. Yet not one in a thou

sand of the profession understand it. And probably not one in many thousands of the laity are aware of the efficient means which they possess in homœopathy for a prompt and safe cure of their maladies. This generation of homœopaths cannot be guiltless if they refrain from reasonable efforts to instruct students of medicine in the great gift of the CREATOR to relieve human sufferings. To this end, homœopathic schools and colleges must be organised and sustained. Truth, religion, life, health, human happiness, professional honor and professional usefulness demand the propagation of pure homœopathy by means of instruction by competent teachers in schools and colleges under the auspices of homœopathic physicians, and the friends of homœopathy.

THE CASE OF THE LATE DR. WASHINGTON OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

At a meeting of the New York Pathological Society in September last, Dr. Parker gave a history of the case of the lamented Dr. Washington, which is published in the New York Annalist. We lay it before our readers because of the, what to our mind seems, most extraordinary treatment, even when Allopathically considered.

"On Tuesday evening, 24th August, the Doctor retired in his usual health, and slept well until morning, when he was awaked by a desire to visit the water closet. In a short period he had two rather copious, thin dejections. Soon after he had nausea, vomited and felt relieved.

In the course of the day, he experienced some uneasiness in the abdomen, and had sixteen ounces of blood taken from the region of the spine by cups, after which he was comfortable; and at bedtime he took five grains of Blue Pill.

At one o'clock, Thursday morning, he had a violent chill, and I was sent for, but being out, did not see him until about six o'clock. I found the Doctor quiet. Skin moist, and the pulse 78 in a minute, soft and open; the abdomen was neither tender, painful nor tumid. The tongue was covered with a slight dirty white coat.

As there had been no action of the bowels for twenty-four hours, and as blood-letting

was not indicated, calomel was advised, followed by castor oil, and large enemata, but no action followed.

At 12 M. the pulse rose to 108; the skin became warm, and colic-like pains were felt in the abdomen; on account of which the Doctor had two dozen of leeches applied, and introduced two grains of opium as a suppository.

At 3 P. M. I saw Dr. W. again; the leeches were removed and the bites were bleeding under a large cataplasm; he was easy; skin moist and the pulse 112, soft.

At 5 P. M. Dr. Borrowe saw him with me, and a large enema was recommended, and the encouragement of the bleeding.

A 10 P. M. we met again. The enema had been retained. Skin moist. Tongue moist. Mouth neither dry nor sticky. Saliva rather free, and it was thought there was some influence upon the system from the mercury. He was left for the night, with directions to have leeches applied again, if there was any recurrence of the pain.

Friday, 9 A. M. We found the Doctor had passed a tolerable night, and had some sleep. Had no return of the pain. Pulse 112, soft. Skin still moist. Tongue as before. Mouth less moist. No action of the bowels.

An enema of sweet oil was ordered, and ten grains of calomel and one of opium in two pills were given.

At 3 P. M. he was seen again. He then complained of pain in the abdomen, especially on the right side. Twelve leeches were applied, and the bleeding encouraged as before.

At 10 P. M. the Doctor was quiet. Much relieved by the leeches. Pulse 116, more contracted and quick. Had had a restless afternoon. Had not slept, nor had there been a dejection from the bowels. We remained with him two hours. Continued quiet. We left him with orders to continue the fomentations and diluent drinks, to take a pill of calomel and opium, and to call us if any change occurred.

At 3 A. M. Saturday, we were called and found a great change had occurred, the pulse 120 and more, skin hot and dry. Abdomen very tender and painful. He could not move without excruciating pain, and said "He was pinioned to his bed."

It was determined in this state of things to set the Doctor up, and abstract blood from the arm until an effect was produced, when four-

teen ounces were taken. Relief was felt, and the pulse changed. He remained comfortable until about 6 A. M., having a large sinapism upon the abdomen.

After this the symptoms of collapse came on. His pulse was 130, small and feeble. Pain and tenderness left the abdomen. It became tympanitic. The whole surface of the body very cold and clammy, and there was the cadaveric fœtor. There was a frequent eructation of the contents of the stomach.

A large blister was applied over the whole abdomen, which drew.

At 10 A. M. Dr. Delafield joined us in consultation. It was agreed to give the camphor mixture and the carbonate of ammonia, chicken tea and turpentine enema. From this time until 2 P. M. the pulse could hardly be felt at the wrist.

At 2 P. M. some reaction occurred. The pulse was from 130 to 140 in a minute.

He passed Saturday night without sleep or much change. The bowels remained inactive. Sunday in the forenoon he had another collapse, the pulse could scarcely be felt; but in the afternoon he rallied somewhat under the application of fomentations to the limbs of hot brandy and cayenne, and at 5 P. M. he had a spontaneous action from the bowels; at first a large quantity passed away, mostly the injections. Fresh enemata were given; and at length there passed away fæces, large curds of milk, tomato seeds, &c. Instead of sinking, his pulse became more strong and distinct, and the body more warm. Still there was the cadaveric fœtor.

We felt, now the bowels were relieved, that if he could be sustained by stimulants and nutrition, there was still some chance for him. For four hours he retained what he took into the stomach. He did not sleep, but seemed more quiet.

Monday, 8 A. M. The patient seemed more feeble. Respiration was laboured. The contents of the stomach were often thrown off, some portion of which was stercoraceous. He was stimulated, and took an anodyne.

At 5 P. M., Dr. Delafield, having returned to the city saw him again. Treatment the same. The Doctor was evidently growing worse.

At 6 1-2 P. M. he rose upon his elbow to vomit; fell into a slight convulsion, in which he died in about three minutes.

His mind was perfectly clear throughout

the whole of the sickness, except that about two hours before his death he seemed to wander for a minute or two."

REMARKS.—Dr. W. was sick six days, during the first four of which, he lost at the lowest estimate 60 ounces of blood, perhaps 100 ounces, for it is difficult to determine the precise quantity from 37 leeches, and after their removal the bleeding promoted by poultices with success, for seven hours. Why all this? Does "two rather copious thin dejections," followed soon after by nausea then vomiting, which afforded relief; and some hours afterwards a sensation of "uneasiness in the abdomen," indicate in allopathy the abstraction of sixteen ounces of blood? Dr. Rush himself would not have bled under such circumstances. We should judge that about six o'clock on Thursday morning, things were favorable; but calomel, castor oil, and large enemata were advised. Why? We cannot answer. The fact that there had been no action of the bowels for twenty-four hours' is no reason for such prescriptions, for he had had two rather copious dejections previously and there was no evidence of any suffering from a want of a stool. But, we have not the patience, nor is it necessary for us to examine critically the treatment of this unfortunate case; most of our readers can do it for themselves. A homœopath on Thursday morning would have said, "let him alone," or, in view of the loss of blood, he might have prescribed an attenuated dose of *China*, and such food as may have been acceptable to the Doctor. We see nothing from that time but the effects of the drugs and the loss of blood. Any organic lesion that may have been discovered on the *post-mortem*, the report of which we have not seen, would only go to confirm our opinion; for if there was chronic organic disease, such treatment would we think, tend to accelerate a fatal termination.

If this is a fair example of the practice of the leading members of the New York Academy of Medicine, we wish it never to come near our door. And until the gentlemen concerned in the above case, can present one treated homœopathically so utterly destitute of a foundation in experience and sound principles, as that one, we hope, until then, they will keep a little more quiet, and not stigmatise homœopathic practitioners of this city, "a set of knaves and fools."

We had some acquaintance with the late Dr. Washington and respected him, although

he was strongly opposed to us ; but he was honest in his opposition. We know, also the gentlemen who attended him during most of his illness, and they rank as the very best practitioners of allopathy in this city. By no means do we intend to censure the men—but the system—the allopathic system—a system which somehow or other, deprives its votaries at times of the exercise of their ample natural mental endowments.

We cannot find it in our heart to speak evil of allopathic physicians, for we were once of that class ourself, and it took five long years to work our way out of the Egyptian darkness of the allopathic school. Experience has therefore taught us that the prejudice of education in medicine, blinds the mind—in fact, in some instances, closes it to the admission of new discoveries, unless they accord with our previously received speculative theories.

7. In relinquishing my connection with the editorial department of the "*American Journal of Homœopathy*" to which I am impelled by the press of other engagements. I take leave to remind the friends and readers of the Journal, that when two years ago the project of publishing a periodical of the kind was undertaken by my esteemed colleague and myself, no circular was issued, nor was a single subscriber in advance obtained for it. The motives for undertaking such an enterprise were frankly avowed in the first No. of the Journal. The leading one of which was, to explain and to sustain the great truths of homœopathy as a science and an art, as they were divulged and insisted upon by Hahnemann.

If in such an effort we have labored with zeal and fidelity, the consciousness of any measure of success will fully reward us. To what extent we may have succeeded, we cheerfully leave to the friends of our cause, in looking at the present condition of our school to judge. That those principles, and the practice which Hahnemann founded upon them are the true basis of reform in medicine, and that a close adherence to them and it by those who may be now attached or who may hereafter connect themselves with the Homœopathic School is essential to its prosperity and full triumph I am confidently persuaded.

Although the Journal has a large list of subscribers, which is constantly augmenting,

yet its receipts have fallen considerably below its expenditures.

My worthy colleague in assuming the entire management of its future publication with a view to lessen the expense both to the subscribers, and to himself; will enlarge the Journal to 16 pages, and issue it monthly.

In his earnest and continued efforts to disseminate and defend the essential doctrines of our school, I am sure he will meet with, as he deserves, the countenance and patronage of its friends everywhere.

As inclination prompts and leisure permits I will furnish in the Journal whatever of interest it may be in my power to do, under my own signature.

In leaving the Journal in the hands of Dr. Kirby, I am pleased to believe that his untiring labors will be given to sustain it in a manner, that cannot fail to give satisfaction to its numerous friends.

R. A. SNOW.

1 Waverley Place, May 1, 1848.

CASES TREATED WITH HIGH POTENCIES.

BY DR. GROSS.

" 'Tis above reason,' cried the doctor on one side. ' 'Tis below reason,' cried the others. 'Tis faith,' cried one. ' 'Tis a fiddlestick,' said the other. ' 'Tis possible' cried one. ' 'Tis impossible,' said the other."—TRISTAM SHANDY,

A young married lady who had aborted twice successively, was again pregnant fourteen days, and sought my advice on the 24th of September last. The previous year I had treated her under the same circumstances with *Sepia* (30) and *Sabina* (6), but could not prevent miscarriage. I now gave her *Sepia* (200), and she had a discharge of bloody mucus. Her catamenia had always been very profuse. Immediately after taking this remedy the discharge became more copious, and lasted four days, so that I was alarmed, and sent her *Kali carb.* (200); in the meantime, however, the discharge lessened, and the *Kali* was not taken. On the 8th December I was informed that she had drawing and burning in the bladder and labor-like pain, especially in making water, which was of a dark color. It was now the dangerous fourth month, so I allowed her to take the former dose of *Kali*, whereupon the above symptoms gradually ceased. In January the motions of the fœtus were perceived. In February she again com-

plained of bearing down in the bladder and frequent calls to urinate, especially when the fœtus moved strongly, whereupon she experienced pain. I now gave her a dose of *Sepia* (400), whereupon all the morbid symptoms went off, and she was safely delivered at the proper period.

A stout innkeeper of thirty years had caught cold five months since on the railway. Thereafter he was affected periodically with a pressure, burning, and feeling of weight in the precordia, as if every thing were forced downwards, with general uneasiness. The whole abdominal parietes felt tense and hard, without apparent cause; his breath was occasionally short; evacuations hard and knotty. He had been affected from childhood with a fœtid perspiration of the feet. He had been subject to profuse nocturnal perspiration, which however had lately yielded to allopathic treatment, but at the same time the strength was much diminished, and he had grown thinner. I gave him *Plumbum aceticum*, (200), and in six days the patient was much improved. In fourteen days, he had no trace of the disease; even the ancient fœtid sweat in the feet had changed into an inodorous transpiration.

A young girl had not had her catamenia for six weeks. She complained of painful shootings in the head, especially in the forehead, and the eyes looked smaller than usual. I gave her in the evening *Belladonna*, (800,) and at night her catamenia came and the headache went off.

Herr Von B., aged about forty, with well marked phthisical habitus, who had frequently suffered from affections of the windpipe, fell ill in consequence of a chill. His ordinary physician called his disease an inflammatory catarrh of the trachea, and treated him for eight days. During this period, however, the condition of the patient grew so much worse, that the physician declared that he was suffering from galloping consumption, and would scarcely live a week longer. The violence of his patient's temper increased by his illness, was such, that he was not displeased to be dismissed from attendance on him; whereupon I was called in. As the patient resided in a neighboring town, and it was impossible for me to visit him every day, he engaged an allopathic physician, a friend of mine, to conduct the treatment under my direction, and communicate with me constantly. This gentleman did not conceal from me his

opinion that it was too late to effect a cure of a case so far gone as this. I, however, undertook the case, and found the following symptoms:—Tickling in the throat and incessant cough, especially in the morning and forenoon with profuse, thin, yellow, tasteless expectoration. The spittoon was filled in the course of the day. Speaking caused coughing at other periods of the day. He was forced to sit in a stooping posture in order to breathe properly. The pulse was about 100 in a minute, urine dark and hot, bowels constipated; no appetite, tongue furred white; profuse nocturnal perspiration. I gave *Stannum* (200) one gl.; on the fourth day the expectoration was diminished to one-half, but the perspiration had increased. A water enema had procured an evacuation of the bowels, slimy greenish and fœtid. The tickling in the throat was still considerable, and the cough distressing. I gave *China* (200) one gl. The sixth day he coughed less in the morning; he had little expectoration, and some difficulty in detaching it, and he sometimes vomited masses of viscid mucus. The tongue had become cleaner, but there appeared a quotidian intermittent fever, of which he had a paroxysm every morning, first rigor then heat, and in the afternoon and evening, slight perspiration without particular thirst. I now gave *Calc Carb.* (200) one gl. In the night the tickling in the throat increased with cough, and much perspiration; but in the morning he had only a slight trace of the fever. Bowels regular and appetite good. The expectoration had a salt taste. The improvement was very evident, but on the tenth day he had a violent attack of toothache in a hollow tooth, which appeared to him too long. He could not take any thing warm in the mouth, was very irritable, and I dreaded a relapse of the chest affection unless the toothache was relieved. So I resolved to give *Cham.* (200) one gl., which was followed by the formation of a gumboil, and relief to the pain. On the thirteenth day I found the cough very inconsiderable, no fever, a natural pulse, more strength, good sleep, the tongue again slightly furred, altho' the appetite continued good and the bowels constipated. I gave *Bry.* (200) one gl., whereupon the tongue became clean, the bowels regular and the appetite excellent. I saw my patient again on the eighteenth day and found him well all except a short, rather dry, morning cough, which induced me to give him another dose of *Calc.*, but this time

one gl. of the 400th. He got no more medicine, and all his morbid symptoms completely disappeared.

A dyer's apprentice came to this neighborhood with ague, and was sent to me to be treated for this disease. I found him pale and miserable looking, with a yellowish complexion and extremely weak. He had been attacked a fortnight ago, at first with quotidian, which had subsequently changed into tertian fever. The attacks were becoming more retarded. At present they appear in the morning—rigor, heat and sweat, all with thirst and headache. Before the paroxysms, great weariness and then headache, especially on moving the head, as if the brain were loose and moved. I gave him that evening one globule of *Arsen.* 400, but I should probably have done better had I given him 800, for the same night he was taken very ill; felt as if he would be choked: complained of great pain in the tongue—in short he was so ill that those about him thought he would die. His landlord thought that he had been poisoned, sent, unfortunately not for me, but for two allopathic physicians, so that I had no opportunity of ascertaining his exact symptoms. The younger of the two considered it a case of poisoning by arsenic, but in this opinion the elder did not coincide. Between the two the case was completely spoiled. Had they not interfered, olfaction of *Nux vom.* 400 would have allayed the storm.

The father of a young man consulted me respecting his son who had for years been addicted to drinking, and was unable to master this fatal propensity. His constitution had been ruined by it, and his digestive organs were in a very bad state. He promised me that his son should not taste a drop of liquor during the treatment. I gave him three doses of *Lachesis*, one to be taken every ten days. The first contained a globule of the 200th, the second of the 400th, and the third of the 800th dilutions. At the end of the year, I heard that, after taking the medicine, he lost all inclination for spirituous liquors, and has become a useful member of the society.

H., a sickly boy about four years of age, could not retain his feces, after having previously suffered from constipation. The feces were neither thin nor watery, but quite firm, and yet they fell from him involuntarily, and he was unable to prevent them; they fre-

quently came away whilst he was playing about. A dose of *Colocynth* 300, completely removed this complaint. The very next day he was able to retain his feces.

Overseer W., a stout man of forty, had been long plagued by a cough. It came, without perceptible cause, at all times, but especially after vexation, joy or any mental emotion. It always took away his breath, caused a troublesome itching in the middle of the chest, and a violent pain from the loins and hips down in the thighs, and finally heat and perspiration. It did not cease until expectoration took place. In the morning the sputa were gray in the day-time white. Respiration was accompanied by loud wheezing sounds. The patient was rather disposed to perspire and his disposition was rather irascible. He had tried many means without effect and latterly had used the Russian baths. I gave him *Ars.* 900, one gl. to be mixed with six spoonfuls of water, and one spoonful taken every evening. Immediately after taking the first dose the cough became worse and was so much aggravated by every succeeding dose, that he assured me, on the fourth day, he could take no more. I made him discontinue its use and wait the result. On the fifth day the cough ceased, and for several months he has not had a trace of the complaint.

A scrofulous country girl, who had not yet had her catamenia, and had from childhood suffered much from ophthalmia, came to me after having been long treated allopathically, under which she had become completely blind. I found considerable corneitis, with red swollen conjunctiva, little pain, but almost total loss of vision. In the right eye the pupil of which was almost completely covered, all except a very small portion, by a white cicatrix, she had still a faint perception of light. The spot that was uncovered by the cicatrix was slightly dim. The pupil of the left eye was, on the contrary, quite obscured, so that it could not be seen at all, and with this eye she had long ceased to have any vision. Not being at this time acquainted with the high potencies, I gave *Sp. vini Sulph.* (0). I moistened a drachm of milk-sugar with some drops of it and gave her daily about four grains of this in water. After four weeks there was not the slightest change. I then gave undiluted solution of *Hepar Sulphuris* in alcohol, one drop morning and evening. There then seemed to be a slight improvement in the vision of the

right eye, but the old state soon returned. On giving daily a drop of *Tinct. Euphras.* (0), the sight of the right eye improved a little; the uncovered space on the pupil became clearer, and increased in size. No improvement was observable on the left eye. After a fortnight's use of one medicine, I generally paused as long to see the effects, and if no progress was made at the end of the fortnight, or if aggravation took place, I then resorted to another remedy. I now gave *Sp. vin Sulph.* (30), in the same way as before and, though the former low dilution produced no effects, this higher one did, and the patient was enabled to read print with the right eye and even the left attained some perception of light. When the improvement ceased I again gave *Tinct. Euphras.*, a drop daily. There was very little improvement effected, and during the seven months I had had her under my care, I must confess I had not been able to effect much. About this time I became familiar with the high dilutions, and gave the patient *Calc. Carb.* (200) one globule; then the same of *Sulph.* (800); then *Silic.* (200); then successively *Lyc.* (200), *Calc.* (400), *Nitr. Ac.* (200), *Cann.*, (200). Each remedy was allowed to act from five to six weeks: the best effects were obtained from *Nitr. Ac.* The right eye now sees equally well near and distant objects; the pupil is bright and clear; there is only a slight trace of a spot remains on the external border of the cornea. The pupil of the left eye is very little obscured, and the patient can with it easily read ordinary print, but cannot yet see distant objects very well with it. I shall, however continue the treatment a little longer, and give next *Sulph.* (900). The remedies seemed to act more efficaciously when dissolved in water, and one or two teaspoonfuls given daily for five or seven days. I must mention that after the first dose of *Calcarea*, the catamenia appeared and have flowed normally every month since.

Bertha B., eighteen years old, of slender figure and sensitive nervous system, has long suffered from headache came on every week. Great burning in the forehead, so that she could get ease in no position; commencing on awaking in the morning, and gradually increasing, attaining its greatest height in the afternoon, with nausea, vomiting of food, and bitter bile; but slight vertigo. Carriage exercise generally brings on the nausea. She improved considerable until June; the headache became less frequent and slighter, d

only for a few hours in the afternoon, and soon went off on lying down unaccompanied by vomiting. During the whole time she had only once vertigo. As the improvement seemed to have ceased, and the symptoms were still the same, though much slighter, I gave her another dose of *Phos.*, but this time 300, on the 13th of June. This repetition of the same remedy produced an aggravation, the headache became more frequent and violent, generally in the afternoon, more of a shooting than burning character, with nausea. Once only vomiting ensued, with relief to her sufferings. In the morning much fatigue so that she was forced to lie in bed with bitter taste in the mouth and complete anorexia. This state of things continued until the eighteenth of July, when I gave globule of *Asarum* (200) in spring water, of which the patient was to take two teaspoonfuls every evening for a week. Eight days after taking the last dose, there occurred headache, with frequent vomiting; eight days later, vomiting without headach, and on the 16th of August contraction in the stomach, and flow of water from the mouth, followed by vomiting, first of mucus then of bile. This was accompanied by drawing in all the teeth, especially in the front teeth and after eating. I now gave *Bryonia*, (200) in the same manner as the last medicine on the 19th of August. She now improved greatly after two more attacks of severe headache, but without vomiting and once as formerly before the catamenia. This last circumstance induced me to give *Cupr.* (300) in the same manner as the other remedies on the 5th of October, since when she has not had the slightest trace of her complaint.

(To be Continued.)

CHLOROFORM.

A correspondent of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, opposes strongly the use of Chloroform; among other things he says.

"I have used "chloroform" in fifty-six dental cases, after having severally exhausted every argument to induce these patients to forego its exhibition, and in six cases for ophthalmic operations. In one case, a young man, who was much excited with the delightful sensations, expressed himself as being in a "most extatic state." All the others appeared to suffer more or less distress whilst under its influence, and after resuscitation had

taken place, seemed pleased that the distressing dreamy incubus was not a permanent reality (it is true that they felt no pain) and none were willing to submit a second time to the "delightful sensations!" The "chloroform" which was used in these cases was as pure as it could be distilled, and applied *secundum artem* (if the term can be applied, so can it be to a man's drinking until he becomes intoxicated) and the symptoms were the same as in numerous other cases, when applied by my professional brethren, viz., the face very livid or turgid, and red from congestion, the eyes variously affected, a noise as if a "train of cars," were actually rumbling through the brain, *tinnitus aurium*, ringing of bells in the ear and head, sound of gong and muffled drums, brilliant fantastic scintillations sparkling in the eyes, with flashes of light, and a thrilling unpleasant sensation running along the courses of the arteries and veins, similar to the pricking sensations all over the body known as the "foot being asleep;" stupefaction, with a knowledge of surrounding objects and the passing conversation, without being able to move or partake therein; a dreamy state, as if oppressed with the "night mare" with the same desire to be relieved; total insensibility, as if in death."

The mania for Chloroform, by Allopaths and Dentists, seems to have subsided; we have heard but little of its having been used for the last month in this city.

The *New York Journal of Medicine* for March, has a sort of two-faced article on the use of that dangerous preparation. We quote the following:

"But in all seriousness we ask, where is this mania to end? Has reason entirely fled the profession, and are we really the unreflecting, unreasoning herd that we are likely to be considered? For what is an anæsthetic agent? Why, nothing less than one which can produce temporary paralysis. And how is this paralysis, this loss of sensibility and of intellect produced? Chiefly, undoubtedly, by producing a state of asphyxia, a condition of the blood unfitted for the support, for any length of time, of animal or organic life. Something, doubtless, is due to the specific impression made upon the brain—the cerebral lobes, and the medulla oblongata; but most of the phenomena result from the chemical changes wrought in the blood itself. This is especially the case with alcohol, sulphuric ether, and chloroform. It has always been known that there was total insensibility during deep intoxication from alcohol, in which condition the arterial blood assumes the color of the venous, from the oxygen received into the lungs converting a portion of the alcohol into water and carbonic acid, by combining with the hydrogen and carbon of the spirit, and intoxication does not pass off until the blood has again resumed its normal condition. The same asphyxiating condition of the vital fluid is brought about by the inhalation of ether. But it does not there-

fore follow that asphyxia, thus brought about, is necessarily attended with serious danger, or that it would not be justifiable, under certain circumstances, to induce it. The effects begin to be manifested soon after the ether enters the lungs. At first the brain is stimulated, the respiratory movements are increased in frequency, the pulse is correspondingly hurried, but soon they both begin to flag, the respiration becomes slow, deep, and loud; lethargy is creeping on apace—the skin assumes a pale or livid hue, and is cold to the feel—the lips become purple—the pupil dilates—sensibility fails, and the whole body becomes flabby and relaxed. In some cases, although there is a general relaxation of the limbs, there is still a power of moving them, and the intellect and senses are almost unaffected, while general sensation is lost. The involuntary muscles, and the organs supplied by the ganglionic nerves, retain, to a considerable degree, their normal functions, especially the uterus, whose contractile efforts go on almost unimpeded during etherization.

The effects, however, of ether-inhalation, vary according to idiosyncrasy, temperament, and other conditions. In some, considerable bronchial irritation results; some are so excited, as to require considerable effort to restrain them; in some, nausea and vomiting are prominent symptoms, which occasionally continue for several hours. The conjunctiva is generally injected with blood, and the pupils dilated or contracted, occasionally fixed: The eye-lids are closed, and if the patient is unable to open them when requested, it is considered a good test as to the proper time of commencing an operation. The most remarkable phenomena connected with etherization, are doubtless those relating to the sensitive and intellectual functions. In some instances, the sense of feeling is suspended, while the intellect remains intact; the brain takes cognizance of external objects, while it either does not notice the impressions made on the sensitive nerves, or they do not produce on it the usual effects.

"This is readily explained by the doctrine now generally recognised by physiologists, that the seat of sensation—tactile sensibility—is seated in the great cephalic ganglia (*tubercula quadragemina*), while the intellectual functions reside in the cerebral lobes. If these lobes were, as once supposed, the common centre of all impressions, as well as of the intellectual operations, it would be difficult to understand how common feeling or the sense of touch could be suspended, while that of sight and hearing continue. But if the sense of touch reside in the *tubercula quadragemina*, there is no difficulty in supposing it may be suspended, without the suspension of the function of the cerebral lobes. The same remark will apply to the sense of sight and hearing. But it is not so easy to explain why etherization should, in some instances, affect the seat of common feeling,—the special ganglia,—without affecting the cerebral lobes, and vice versa. Flourens and some other French physiologists have attempted, by experiments on animals, to show

the order in which different portions of the nervous system are influenced by ether; but so far as we have observed, the symptoms are not so regular as to enable us to determine with precision, which portion is first affected; at any rate, we have observed no regular order in the phenomena manifested. The intellectual phenomena, if any are witnessed, may be sad or gay; violence and combativeness may be manifested; passion, hysteria, &c., according to the sex, constitution, or susceptibility of the patient.

In experimenting with ether on dogs, we find they lose the faculty of sensation in eight minutes; and if they continue to respire it, perish in about 40 minutes; and on dissection, the vessels of the pia mater, medulla oblongata, and sinuses of the brain, are filled with dark-colored blood, also both sides of the heart; while the liver and kidneys are equally congested, and the blood throughout the body is black and fluid. We find the cause of death, then, partly in the venous state of the blood, and its accumulation in this condition in the brain, and partly in the specific effect produced by the application of a poisonous agent to the cerebro-spinal centres. To prevent these fatal results, it is found necessary in the human subject to allow of the admission of a considerable amount of pure air; but, as Mr. Taylor has truly remarked, unless there is a complete restoration of sensibility and consciousness, the poison must go on accumulating in the system; and if the individual be allowed to recover thus completely, it may be regarded as a commencement of its poisonous action, *de novo*; if not thus allowed to recover, he is in danger of sinking under its effects. Would not the continual exhibition of morphia or strychnia, as the same writer asks, at intervals as short as not to allow of a recovery from each successive dose, cause an accumulation in the system, and lead to fatal results? Is it safe, are we justified in administering it *gradatim*, from time to time, to parturient females, perhaps during several successive hours; thus loading the blood more and more with carbon, to save those pangs which the wise Creator has, for some inscrutable pure pose, connected with the process of child-bearing? Surely, the fact that thousands have recovered from inhaling it for a short period only, is not sufficient to decide this question. Because a man might survive fifteen minutes in the Black Hole of Calcutta, we are not therefore to infer that it would be safe for him to remain there over night. Let it be remembered, that while ether is circulating in the blood, its carbon and hydrogen are constantly using up the oxygen of the vital fluid, and converting it into carbonic acid and water. We believe it will be found, as maintained by the discoverer of etherization, the late Dr. Wells, that the nitrous oxide gas, which contains no carbon nor hydrogen, but one atom of nitrogen and one of oxygen, will be found far safer than ether or chloroform, and will be preferred therefore by practitioners in cases where an anæsthetic agent is to be employed.

Let the advocates of indiscriminate etherization say what they may, there cannot be a shadow of doubt that numerous valuable lives have already fallen victims to its use. A few months since, the foreign journals abounded with such cases. Mr. Taylor, in his recent work on poisons, relates several unequivocal cases of this kind; one in which the vapor of ether was respired at intervals, for only ten minutes; and another during a period of thirty-five minutes, in which, he states, the vapor produced a perfect state of paralysis of the brain and nervous system, and where, on dissection, the appearances already described were presented. In some cases, where surgical operations have been performed, there have been alternate manifestations of excitement and depression of the sensorial powers, at one time resembling delirium, at another syncope, and again passing into violent intoxication, until the patients have sunk under the effects; symptoms, not to be confounded with those which attend collapse from an operation. The conclusion at which Mr. Taylor arrives, (*loc. cit.*) is fully sustained by facts, that the inhalation of ether must be regarded as temporary poisoning, with, *ceteris paribus*, a better chance of recovery than exists in most other instances of aerial poisoning."

The following cases we found in an exchange Journal.

"A young lady of Lawrenceburgh, Indiana, had several teeth extracted recently, while under the influence of Chloroform. For several days she remained in a lethargic state, and has since lost the sight of one of her eyes."

"A druggist's apprentice, at Aberdeen, while weighing an ounce of Chloroform, put some on his handkerchief and applied it to his mouth and nostrils. He became much excited, then laid his head on the counter, and died. He had been in the habit of inhaling it for amusement and pleasurable excitement."

BITE OF A "COPPER HEAD" TREATED BY INDIGO.

Dr. Edward P. King of this city, reports a case of poisoning by the bite of a "Copper Head Snake" on the inner surface of the left hand, which is published in the N. Y. Annalist. After he had employed various means, usually resorted to in such cases by Allopaths, viz.; cauterization of the bitten part; ligature about the arm; stimulants; the Doctor says:

"The arm now began to swell in a most fearful manner, the ligature held on well, and appeared as if deeply buried in the integuments; still the pulse was but slightly

affected by the ligature. The arm below the ligature was extremely livid, with an appearance of yellow spots on the surface. It had, however, a perfectly natural appearance above the ligature. Having endeavored in vain to arrest the further progress of the poison by sedative applications, and my patient suffering intensely, and being apparently delirious, I suddenly resolved upon having recourse to Indigo, which I recollected to have seen, about 20 years since, registered on a toxicological chart, in London, as an antidote to the bite of these reptiles. The thought was fortunate and the effect magical. I applied it in solution freely to the wound, and exhibited it internally in 1-2 drachm doses every two hours. The inflammation and pain rapidly subsided; so much so that I resolved on removing the bandage higher up on the limb, to the centre and upper portion of the arm, where it remained until the following day. The arm still continued to swell to some extent towards the last ligature, but exhibited none of the lividity nor spotted appearance which characterised the lower portion. The man recovered, and I attribute the recovery entirely to the remedial efficacy of the Indigo. Since the above occurrence, I have learned from an intelligent lady, that Indigo was also regarded by her family as a certain specific for the bite of the Adder, Bee, and Mosquito Stings, in that portion of the U. S., where she was brought up."

We very much regret that Dr. K. did not minutely describe the symptoms of the above case, so that we could show from the pathogenesis of Indigo, as recorded in our *Materia Medica*, that that drug was homœopathic to the condition of the case. The result proves to us, that it was so. Some of the peculiarities of the effect of Indigo in the human system are; the pains are characterized by great intensity, and slight mental derangement. Dr. K. says "my patient suffering intensely, and being apparently delirious." Other peculiarities of the effects of Indigo are; "the pains worse during rest and when sitting, and can frequently either be entirely suppressed by rubbing and pressure, or by motion." It would be satisfactory to know if this was not the fact in Dr. K's case; and also, if the pulse was not slow, and whether an excessive itching of various parts of the body did not come on, after the administration of the large doses of the Indigo. But, there is no use, for us to speculate in this manner, the case was interesting, and should have been carefully drawn up; but as it is, we only know that a man was bitten by a snake, and cured by Indigo, and Dr. K. deserves credit for a good memory.

THE ANALYST;

A Record of Practical Medicine in the City of New York.

Our attention has been called repeatedly by different Physicians of our School to this Journal—expressing some surprise that we had not noticed some of its articles, abusive of homœopathy, and its practitioners. We have read all those articles, but we found nothing in them, other than the commonplace misrepresentations which have been reiterated and answered a hundred times. We will however amuse our readers with a single example of the candor of the Analyst. In No. 12, Vol. 2, is the following; viz:

"DECLINE OF HOMŒOPATHY IN ENGLAND.—*The Homœopathic Hospital.*"—The following resolution was recently adopted by the Committee of this Hospital. "That, taking a review of the present position of the English Homœopathic Association, in relation to the means possessed for carrying on a hospital in connection therewith, the Committee deem it necessary to declare their opinion, that, for the present, the action of the hospital shall cease." We expect soon to hear of a similar fate attending certain other institutions of similar character in other cities."

Now, what are the facts? There never was a Homœopathic hospital in England that we ever heard of; and we are quite sure we should have known of it, if there had been one. The truth about the matter is this; in England there are three Homœopathic Associations; one, correctly named in the above article; and the other is entitled the "British Homœopathic Society;" and another "The British Homœopathic Physician's Society;" we quote from memory, and think we are correct in these titles.

The first is composed of laymen with only a few Physicians and Surgeons; and established and had under its care a Dispensary, to which Dr. Currie was the chief physician; and his published reports show the usefulness of it. "The British Homœopathic Physician's Association" is composed of Physicians and Surgeons only, of which Dr. Quin is the President. At the last Annual Meeting of this Association, some of the leading lay members of the "English Homœopathic Association" made a communication, somewhat in the form of a petition, in which they state that difficulties had arisen between them and Dr. Currie, of so grave a character, as to in-

duce them to withdraw all connection with him and that Association. The result of which was, the organization of the "British Homœopathic Association" which is composed of Physicians and Laymen. Now, previous to the almost breaking up of the English Association, it had under consideration the propriety of establishing a Hospital, which was in the hands of a Committee, composed of the very men who at the time they offered the resolution, had made up their minds to resign. Hence the resolution reported by the Annalist, is a kind of evidence to prove the "Decline of Homœopathy in England" that no one would think of employing, except for purposes of deception.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN PHILADELPHIA.

Eighteen Homœopathic physicians of Philadelphia, and as many of the friends of Homœopathy as could be asked in the short space of two days, petitioned the legislature in January to obtain a charter for a Homœopathic College. They were driven to this by one of the resolutions passed in the National Convention of Allopathic physicians; according to which, a Diploma could be withheld from students who had been pursuing their studies in the office of a physician "not in the regular practice," notwithstanding the same was a regular M. D. It was obvious that this resolution could have been applied to Homœopathic physicians and their students.

The bill passed the House Feb. 12, and the Senate April 5th, and received the signature of the Governor, April 8th.

Monday last, the 10th of April, being the birthday of Hahnemann, the founder of the Homœopathic system, the Incorporators held their first meeting in the Atheneum, a majority of the members being present. Judge Parsons was called to the chair, and Dr. Sims, appointed Secretary. A vote of thanks was proposed, and unanimously adopted, to Mr. Ball of Erie, and Dr. Whitehead of Harrisburg, for their zealous and disinterested exertions to bring the bill in time before the House and Senate. A committee to frame a constitution and by-laws was appointed, consisting of Judge Parsons, Edward M. Davis, Isaac S. Waterman, Henry J. Boller, John M. Kennedy, and Drs. Jeanes, Williamson,

Neidhard and Herring, and the meeting adjourned to meet again on the 27th of April, at the same place.

ROUND HILL WATER-CURE RETREAT.

Northampton, Mass.

We have received a circular, issued by the proprietors of the above institution, from which and other sources we should judge this to be equal and perhaps superior to any of the kind in this or any other country. We have a personal acquaintance with Dr. G. T. Dexter one of the medical superintendants, who was at the head of a similar establishment in Morristown New-Jersey, and the proprietors feel assured in securing his services in connection with the other gentlemen, they offer a combination of experience, skill and accommodation, not surpassed in the United States. They have also made extensive arrangements and have spared no pains in fitting up a part of the retreat for the use and convenience of the friends of the patients, for persons traveling for health or pleasure, and for gentleman going into the country with their families, who will find this a rare location, with great variety of amusements, and accommodations not inferior to any hotel in the country. The extensive gymnasium, the bowling alleys, the billiard room, the shady walks, the beautiful valley with the broad Connecticut winding through its centre, Mount Tour on one side and Mount Holyoke on the other, and the rich and varied scenery which everywhere meets the eye, offer additional sources of amusement and health.

The proprietors are J. A. Cummings, C. A. Hall, Northampton; A. Clark, U. S. Hotel; Alfred Randall, Boston; of whom additional information may be obtained.

HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA.

Witch-Hazel.

A respectable Allopathic Physician reports, "I have employed the Witch-Hazel for more than thirty years, in one way or another, as a remedial agent. My attention was first called to it by the country people round me, who

use it for all manner of hemorrhages. I once met a young man going to market in his wagon, and having by his side a branch of the witch-hazel in full foliage. I knew that his father and mother, and all the family, no less than eight or ten in numbers, except himself and younger brother, had died of consumption. He, too, was pale and emaciated, and bade fair soon to follow them to the tomb. He told me he dare not leave home without the Witch-hazel, to stop his spitting blood, for as soon as it appeared he chewed some leaves and swallowed the juice, with the invariable effect of arresting it at once. He has ever since continued to use the leaves, or a decoction of the bark. Either of these, arrest the hemorrhage and relieve the pains of the chest promptly. He has since lived many years, although his health is not good. But I presume he owes his life to this one article. This is only one of the many similar cases of its successful effects. It does not arrest diarrhœas so remarkably as moderate hemorrhages, especially those of the lungs, stomach and intestines. In hematemesis I have found it to operate like a charm."

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

The Annual Meeting of this Institution will be held in June next in this city.

Physicians of the Homœopathic School throughout the country, should regard it a duty to be present on that occasion; and from intimations made to us, we anticipate an unusually large attendance.

From the number of committees appointed at the last session of the Institute, who will be required to report at the ensuing session, we infer that subjects of vast importance in medicine will come up for consideration; and from the harmony that has heretofore characterised that body, we anticipate interesting and useful debates. All who properly consider "*The American Institute of Homœopathy*," must perceive, we think, the importance of that organization, to the promulgation of sound doctrines in medicine; and we are sure, that the disciples of Hahnemann will not permit slight causes to interfere with their personal attention to its interests.

We would suggest to those physicians who are not members of the Institute, the propriety

of joining it, that the entire school in this country, may have a bond of union.

TO THE MEMBERS OF "THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY;

And those who intend to become members.

If physicians of homœopathy would manifest a moiety of the zeal to promote their interests that those of allopathy do, they would command more respect and influence, and be more useful to society. The efforts for a very large attendance of allopathic physicians at the annual meeting to be held in Baltimore in a few days, is worthy of imitation by homœopathic physicians in view of the annual meeting of "*The American Institute of Homœopathy*," in this city on the fourteenth of June next. We can see no reason why one hundred and fifty should leave their business and pay their own expenses to attend the meetings of the institute, and transact business for a thousand or more who remain quietly at home, and who are at no expense or trouble and yet enjoy the advantages of the labors of the former. And further, it is rather unusual for those members of the Institute who do not attend meetings to pay their annual dues; but those who do attend, have to be punctual in this matter. We hope that those members who cannot be at the meeting in June next, will at least send to the treasurer the amount due from them, which they may know by reference to the proceedings of the Institute held at Boston in 1847.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL IN MOSCOW.

A homœopathic hospital was formally opened in Moscow, in the presence of the governor-general, Prince Setscherbatoff, and other persons of rank and influence. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions. Dr. Schweikert was appointed honorary medical officer.

We have several times met with an article on homœopathy purporting to be from the pen of Dr. Bell of Philadelphia. It is intended for a sort of review of Dr. Neidhard's reply to Dr. Holmes, what appeared some two

or three years ago. As is usual with all allopathic writers on homœopathy, Dr. Bell starts wrong. The following we place in our columns, with the deep regret, that we are compelled to admit the truth of what Dr. B., here states, viz :

"Among the practitioners of homœopathy, there are three classes: one consistent, acting out their belief; and another who, under the pretence of homœopathic doses, given common but small ones, and those of active and sometimes poisonous articles; and a third who are ready to practice either way, allopathically, or homœopathically, paying their own judgment and science the odd compliment of asking their patients, how they wish to be treated, and according to their reply either bleeding them or giving them a Hahnemann vial to smell, and caring not at all how they earn their fees, provided fees come into their pockets."

The people however, can easily protect themselves from impositions of this kind, by a little reflection, and conversation with the physician they are about to employ. Ed.

THE MILWAUKIE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL REPORTER.

A monthly periodical of the above title is published in *Milwaukie*, Wisconsin. Drs. Tracy and Douglass, Editors.

These gentlemen have a large practice in that city, and they are true to the principles of homœopathy. The following extract is from one of their editorials, viz :—

"We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a class of diseases which are more fatal to children in this city, than any other—we mean inflammation of the lungs and bronchiæ. No distinction is usually made between the two, and a distinction is not very important.—They are both usually called inflammation of the lungs. We desire our readers to recall to their minds the number of fatal cases of these diseases which they can recollect, within the past year, or the past six months, and even the past few weeks. We wish then to refer them to our table for the present month in which it will be seen that we have treated 26 cases of these diseases, one of which was in an almost hopeless condition, under allopathic treatment, and yet there has been no death. This is not all. We have not lost a patient with these diseases in this city. And this is not all. We have never lost a single case since we adopted our present practice. We do not wish the community to depend on our representation, but we wish to direct their attention to this subject, that they may arrive at safe conclusions from

their own observations. If there is a method of treatment which, large experience proves, cures every case, or even almost every one of these fatal diseases, the public are deeply interested in knowing it, and we wish to direct their own earnest observation to the subject."

Two homœopathic physicians in this city in large practice, within the last fortnight, stated to us they had not lost a case since they abandoned allopathy. One of five years and the other of seven years standing in the practice. Our own experience corresponds with the above. Under what mode of treatment is it, that so many children die weekly in this city of inflammation of the lungs?—Ed.

THE RIVAL SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE.

OR

Homœopathy vs. Allopathy.

A pamphlet of twenty-four pages with the above title has been sent us. It is a lecture by Dr. J. Bryon of North Port, L. I., and its publication was solicited by the audience who heard its delivery. It can be had for twelve and a half cents of Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway, and of J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway. It is an able production, and well worth reading by the friends or foes of homœopathy.

Letters received up to April 6th. Drs. Geo. Shipman, J. F. Whittle, J. Bryan, Lock C. Lyon, D. S. Kimball, Lester Keep, Chauncey Ayres, J. Jones. Messrs. Hiram Nourse, James Peacock, Robert Rhodes, Dr. Peley Clark.

HOMŒOPATHIC DOMESTIC MEDICINE.

BY J. LAURIE, M. D.

Fourth American edition, enlarged and improved by A. Gerald Hull, M. D.

A new edition of the above work has been issued by Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway. At the present time, Dr. Laurie's Domestic Medicine needs no praise from us, and it has been so long in use, its reputation is established. The sale, both in Europe and in this country has been extensive.

CASE.

Chronic Bronchitis and Worms.

J. D., aged 10 years, was brought to the Dispensary on the 10th March, 1840. She has been ill since she was nine months old. Has a cough attended by a yellow expectoration, which is discharged in lumps. Her appetite is rather ravenous; she is thirsty; the pulse frequent, and her abdomen much distended.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

March 25th. The cough and expectoration are much freer; the other symptoms remain the same.

Prescription. Sulphur repeated.

April 1st. The cough still continues. She has passed several small worms.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

11th. Cough as before; had not passed any more worms: does not feel ravenous.

Prescription. Sulphur one globule.

18th. She feels better; coughs only after running or walking fast; has passed more worms; continues thirsty.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

25th. Has passed more worms.

Prescription. Cina repeated.

May 2nd. Is better, but continues to cough after exertion; the abdomen is slightly distended.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

9th. She feels well, but coughs a little when she runs fast.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

16th. Has coughed more during the week; especially in the evening.

Prescription. Pulsatilla, one globule.

25th. The cough is almost removed, and she is in other respects better.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

June 1st. She feels no pain, but still coughs after running or walking fast, and expectorates phlegm.

Prescription. Sulphur repeated.

8th. She is quite well. On the 23d she had no return of her former symptoms, and on the 1st of July was discharged cured.

NOTICE.

The publisher of this Journal finds it necessary to require a compliance with the terms; viz: One Dollar a Year in Advance. Remittances may be made through the post office directed to the Editor, No. 762 Broadway.

Those subscribers who are in arrears for Vols. 1 or 2 will, we hope, remit the amount without further delay, as we need the funds.

Subscribers in Philadelphia, will receive the Journal as usual through C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth Street. Those in Boston, are informed that Otis Clapp will supply them as heretofore.

Volumes 1 and 2, bound or stitched, can be obtained as above, or of J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway, New York City. Price,—bound, \$1 25; stitched, \$1 00. Also of Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway.

Will William C. Roberts, M. D., Editor of the *Annalist*, inform his readers, what he means by "false facts"? *Vide Annalist*, Vol. II, No. 9, page 174.

DOMESTIC HOMŒOPATHY,

BY JOHN EPPS, M. D.

Third American, from the fourth London edition, edited and enlarged by Geo. W. Cook, M. D.

A new edition of this popular work has been published by Otis Clapp, 12 School street, Boston. This work of Dr. Epps has received the approbation of many of the friends of homœopathy, and being so well known, an extended notice from us is unnecessary.

Dr. Rush said "As bees gather honey from the humblest flowers, so we must listen to the tale of experience, though told by an old woman." Times have changed since the days of Rush; no one thinks of listening to the experience of any one not his own *clique*.

THE MARINERS' PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON;

Or a guide to the Homœopathic Treatment of those diseases to which seamen are liable, &c.
By Geo. W. Cook, M. D.

A work with the above title has been published by J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway, N. Y. It will no doubt be useful to mariners and and with the medicines to correspond neatly put up in a box, the price is fifteen dollars.

"Water," says Dr. Rush, "is the universal sedative of turbulent passions; it not only promotes a general equanimity of temper, but it composes anger."

Doctor Kirby has removed to 762 Broadway, fourth door above Eighth street.

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vol. 1 of the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY," may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY

At 57 Bond Street. Open daily—Sunday's excepted—at 12 o'clock, M. Also, on Saturdays, at 12 o'clock, M., for the treatment of Surgical Cases.

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Tuesday—Drs. Quin & Taylor.

Wednesday—Drs. Snow & Bowers.

Thursday—Drs. Wright & Bolles.

Friday—Drs. Hawks & Allen.

Saturday—Drs. Joslin, Bayard, McVickar and Cator.

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No. 498 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

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B. H. BARTLETT Agt. respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. 3.

New York, June, 1848.

NO. 2.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1848.

PRIZE ESSAY,

BY DR. G. M. SCOTT OF GLASGOW.

The prize committee of the Parisian Homœopathic Society awarded a gold medal, valued at 300 francs to Dr. Scott for the following essay. The committee justly say of it: "It is short, clear, but not dazzling in style." Dr. S. whilst discussing the fundamental idea of homœopathy has displayed to view, parts that no anatomist of thought had remarked before himself; he has not cast in a new mould, in a new form, thoughts enunciated by Hahnemann or others, on the value of homœopathy; he has done better, he has hit upon ideas of a perfectly novel character; he has *invented*.

A Logical and Experimental Demonstration that it is by Homœopathy alone that the principles and machinery of the science and art

of medicine have attained a definite foundation.

It is proposed in the following disquisition:

I. To explain what is understood by a definite foundation for the principles and machinery of the science and art of medicine.

II. To show that no such definite foundation has been attained by any school previous to that of Hahnemann.

III. To show that a definite foundation has been attained by that school.

The relevancy of the arguments adduced will constitute the demonstration *logical*;—the *historical* character of the investigation will constitute it *experimental*; and thus will the terms of the proposition be met.

We assume the truth of the homœopathic law, because to do otherwise would lead to a repetition of arguments and instances familiar to homœopaths and others, and would carry us too far away from the point directly in view. Our position, then, is, "Granting the truth of the homœopathic law, a definite foundation is laid for the theory and practice of medicine." In this we make no unfair assumption, inasmuch as in our review of other systems we adopt the same premises, though we draw an opposite conclusion, viz. "Granting the truth of the theory no definite foundation is laid."

I. What is meant by a definite foundation for the principles and machinery of the science and art of medicine? It is necessary to limit the subject to the consideration of *therapeutics*, since an investigation of the collateral sciences of physiology and pathology would imply too extensive a range of inquiry, and would be foreign to the end contemplated. Our question therefore resolves itself into this, "What is meant by a definite

foundation for therapeutics in theory and practice?"—Now this, we conceive, must consist in the establishment of a *universal law of cure*, which shall be the foundation of *theory*, and of a correct method of *applying* the law, which shall be the foundation of the practice.

The perfection of such a foundation would be, that the law, which is the foundation of theory, should also itself be the foundation of the practice.

In order to this, it must be of such a nature that the practice shall arise out of the theory without the intervention of any separate theory. For example: the practice of homœopathy arises directly from the theory, because, if the theory, "*similia similibus curantur*" be established, we require no independent theory of the action of medicinal substances, but only an accurate investigation of their actual, discoverable properties; whereas, on the contrary, a therapeutical theory founded on a pathological hypothesis (however correct it might be), would require that medicines be selected according to their agreement with that hypothesis: thus, if fever be ascribed to a spasm of the extreme vessels, and if this doctrine be regarded as our guide in practice, we must select a medicine in virtue of its property of counteracting such spasm; which is to introduce another theory, viz. that of the action of each individual medicine; and in strict accordance with the original theory of disease, all results of the medicine are to be discarded, excepting so far as they may be considered anti-spasmodic.—In this view, no theory of disease can constitute a definite foundation for practice.—But if some universal law of cure be pointed out, consisting in a relation between the actually ostensible properties of medicinal substances and the equally ostensible or discoverable phenomena of disease, this, we think, will constitute a definite foundation both for the theory and practice of medicine. But this, as far as we know, has not even been *sought* by any other school than that of Hahnemann, and hence has arisen the want of progress and of a definite foundation, notwithstanding the immense expenditure of learning, talent and effort bestowed on the subject during many centuries.

With the single exception of the Empirics, the method of cure in every school was made to depend on the *theory of disease*, not on the discovered properties of medicines, apart

from such theory. It is the characteristic of homœopathy, that it is not a *theory of disease* at all, but a *theory of cure*, and that it may be applied to practice, whatever theory of disease may happen to be adopted. It provides therefore, if established, a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine, because the universal law of cure which it points out as the foundation of the theory is capable of immediate application to practice, without any separate or independent theory.

II. We propose now, by a very succinct review of the principal theories of medicine from the age of Hippocrates, to show that no definite foundation for theory and practice has ever been laid, except by the school of Hahnemann.

We are not aware that Hippocrates himself ever asserted any general law or theory; he commonly contented himself with details of individual cases and the treatment which he considered suitable, though it is manifest from the habitual strain of his writings that his practice was founded on his physiological and pathological theories; that is to say, he selected medicines in virtue of their supposed relation to the supposed deviation from the normal condition implied in any given disease; and the relation is that of contrast, expressed by the words "*contraria contrariis curantur*." We cannot recall any passage of his writings containing the express statement of a general law more definite than this, nor do we imagine that even *this* was assigned by him as a definite foundation for practice, but merely as an intimation of the general end to be kept in view; for in *one* passage at least, he recognizes the direct opposite, in saying, "*vomitum vomitu curatur*." But, were it even the case that he had laid down the principle "*contraria contrariis curatur*," as a fundamental law, he should still have failed in laying a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine. For, in the first place, it is manifest from the whole tenor of his writings that the state which he opposes is the abnormal state in which he conceives the disease to consist; that is, it is his own pathological theory, and not the symptoms actually discoverable; and secondly, were it otherwise, and were the law of cure expressed by these words "*contraria contrariis curantur*," it would still be impossible to apply it without an intervening theory; we must ascertain what state is contrary to a given morbid state, and what medicine can

establish such a contrary condition: what state, for instance, is contrary to head ache, to measles, to cynanche, &c.; for if the *contrary* to such states be merely the absence of the morbid symptoms, the rule is a mere truism, and amounts to this, "Cure each disease by that which removes it;" if more be intended, then the rule is an enigma requiring a distinct theory for every disease and for every medicine. The merit of Hippocrates, no doubt, was great; but it consisted in patient observation and faithful delineations of diseases, their course, their treatment, and their issue; and in the general design to reduce them within the province of philosophical investigations. His merit may be compared to that of Bacon, not indeed in pointing out a general rule even for the routine of inquiry but in accumulating facts from which by induction a general law might be derived, rather than to that of Newton, who indicated the one universal law which explained an infinite number of facts. Hippocrates may thus be regarded as contributing to lay a definite foundation by furnishing materials to those who should reduce the details of experience to a general law, but he cannot be regarded as having elicited any such law himself. The only sense in which we can conceive that the most devoted admirer of Hippocrates would assert that he had laid a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine is, that he may be regarded as the founder of what has been called the dogmatic or rational school as distinguished from the empiric; which amounts to this, that he looked upon physiology and pathology as the guides to practice. But even if it be allowed that the law which is to constitute the definite foundation is to be found somewhere in the region of these collateral branches of science, it cannot certainly be shown that he succeeded in extricating it, or in reducing it to any formula: for, while by universal consent, he is styled the father of medicine, and has in all ages been held in the highest veneration, there is, nevertheless, no one law that bears his name, professing to afford a definite foundation.

If our remarks be correct, we conceive that they apply to all that may be called the Hippocratic or dogmatic school, whether we view it as speculating on the forms of ultimate atoms, or as seeking light in an improved anatomy, or as analyzing and combining substances in crucibles, instead of bringing them

into relation with the human frame; though we should grant that the efforts of the various sections of this school were exerted in the right direction, we maintain that hitherto they have been unsuccessful, and that no law can be pointed out as a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine laid by the dogmatic school.

If we now turn to the empirics, we shall find them equally destitute of any general law; indeed, their principles forbade it; for as long as experience alone is allowed to guide, that school can be regarded merely as accumulating instances from which perhaps a general law may be derived by *others*, but to make this deduction *themselves* would be to contradict the essential principles of the sect; for, as soon as a general law or theory is advanced, the characteristic feature of the school is lost. The empirics, indeed, approached the nearest to the establishment of a definite foundation, because they pointed out that method which is really the best guide to practice, though they did not indicate the *law* which reduces to unity all the details of experience, and which thus should constitute a guide not only through the beaten paths of human suffering, but also through the *terra incognita* of each new malady.

For example: On the invasion of a new disease, as the cholera in Europe, the dogmatist and the empiric would be alike at fault; the former, to be consistent, must defer his treatment till he has formed a satisfactory theory of the pathological character of the disease; the latter refers to his experience, and finds it a blank; while the homœopathist, whose guide is in the very features of the disease itself as cognizable by him, is competent to meet it at once (we do not here say *successfully*, but at least *consistently* with his principle) without the delay of forming an hypothesis. He feels that a definite foundation has been laid for the treatment of this disease as well as the more familiar, and therefore he may undertake it at once without any conscious shifting of his ground.

Themison the founder of the methodic school, renounced the pursuit of the "*prima causa morbi*," but he adopted a system which amounted to very nearly the same thing. For while he classified all diseases under three heads, according to some supposed common feature, viz.—1st Diseases of confinement,
2d. Diseases of relaxation,
3d. Diseases of a mixed charac-

ter,—he must have founded this very classification on a *theory* of confinement and relaxation, unless we consider these elements of classification in the most obvious and superficial point of view, in which case, assuredly no definite foundation would have been laid. Certainly the guide would be very far from satisfactory which should give no further rule for treatment of catarrh than that which applied to diarrhœa, or direct us to cure hæmorrhoidal flux by a remedy which he happened to have found useful in diabetes. But the real views of the methodic school were much more recondite than to include only the most obvious indications of confinement and relaxation; they regarded disease as consisting in a disproportion of the pores of the body to the atomic particles appropriated to them, and by this disproportion occasioning confinement and relaxation. This, therefore, was to introduce a very abstruse theory in the cause of disease, instead of discarding such theories altogether. And it was to leave us still in the dark as to the means of cure, the means of re-adjusting the proportion; and since medicines were supposed to act in virtue of their power of so doing, this was to meet a theory of disease by a theory of medicinal action; that is to say, instead of laying one definite foundation, to lay two very indefinite and very uncertain foundations. We may adopt this or any other classification of diseases, to assist the memory, but what we seek is a principle of *cure* which shall be independent of all classification.

Take now the Episynthetic school, whose principle was that of combination, adopting the characteristic features of different sects, combining, for example, the theories of the dogmatic or Hippocratic with the results of the empiric and the classification of the methodic. This is certainly to lay no definite foundation, but rather to incur the risk of introducing the elements of weakness and inconsistency, and of making facts bend to theories. The rigid Empiric who turned a deaf ear to all theory was more likely to be firmly established than the Episynthetic who, gathering together on one side a mass of facts, and, on the other, placing a readily formed theory, determined to make one the measure of the other, to the rejection of neither. If we regard the synthesis of this school merely as involving the adoption of the *characteristic principles* of other schools, thus acknowledging that pathological theories ought to be

formed and ought to guide our practice, but that these theories must be modified and built upon experience, and that for convenience sake, these numerous details must be thrown into method, the Episynthetic resolves itself into the Eclectic school, whose principle was to select from all schools that which they contained true and worthy of imitation, in which, no doubt, they are to be commended; but nevertheless, they came short of laying a definite foundation, since it is from such a source, such a collection of truths, of true theories, and established facts, that a general law may perhaps ultimately be elicited, but they cannot themselves *constitute any* such general law. To select truths from all quarters is no doubt to accumulate a number of truths; but we are in quest of *one truth*, one uniform, unbroken foundation, and this we can find neither among the Episynthetics nor Eclectics.

The Pneumatic school took one step further in departure from a definite foundation; for, whereas hitherto, the theories of disease had contemplated deviation from the normal standard in the several known elements of the body or their properties, heat, cold, dryness, and moisture, the pneumatic sect introduced another element, entitled *pneuma* or spirit, to which they assigned the cause of disease, thus building a theory on a basis itself having only theoretical existence. These were the principal medical schools of antiquity. To them the Arabians cannot be said to have added much, since these were merely the copyists and translators of their predecessors, though they introduced some new substances into practice. They do not appear to have founded any new school, unless we ascribe to them the chemical school. The introduction of chemistry, even in its very imperfect state, was a great step in advance, but merely a step of *detail*, that is to say, it contributed to enlarge the materia medica, but it established no general law of cure. Even the search after a universal medicine was of this character; it was the search after a *particular substance*, not after a *law* or *principle*. The pursuit was so visionary, that it deserves not any particular attention; but even if by a stretch of the imagination we suppose the object attained, it could scarcely be said to lay a *foundation* for the theory and practice of medicine, since it would *wholly absorb* both the science and the art. A universal remedy of disease and preventive of death would itself constitute the

whole of therapeutics. But apart from the chimerical nature of the pursuit, it involved such an ignorance of the nature of man and the laws of his being as to be totally incapable of affording a definite foundation for any method of correcting deviations from the healthy performance of functions appropriate to that nature and regulated by those laws.

We are left equally destitute of any definite foundation by the more recent theories either spiritual or material. Thus the spiritual theories of Van Helmont and De Stahl may be held to be true or otherwise;—we may contemplate vitality under the idea of a living intelligent principle or soul, or we may regard it as the necessary result of organization, and at the same time be conscious that we are equally removed on either supposition from any definite foundation of the theory and practice of medicine. Though we were quite sure of the existence of an intelligent *vis naturæ* presiding over the human frame and seeking to repel disease, we should still be without a guide to the treatment of it; we cannot regulate the movements of this intelligent principle, nor force it to speak out in order to regulate ours: all that we can do is to minister to the exercise of its powers, but whether our efforts be to help or to hinder, we can tell only by the *result*, a result in no degree modified by the hypothesis of such a superintending power. And if, on the contrary, we view life as the necessary result of organization, and every disease as a perturbation of that organization, we have still to ascertain the character of the perturbation and the method and principle according to which we may seek to restore the pristine or normal state. Either theory, whether that of spirituality or materialism, affords in itself no clue to treatment; it is a mere theory of physiology or pathology, not a theory of *cure*.

We need not dwell long on any of the more recent doctrines of the schools; there are however two, which may not be wholly passed over. The theory of Dr. Brown, owing to its great simplicity, was very widely adopted. It may be considered a new school of the methodic sect, classifying all diseases under two heads, viz.—1st, excess of excitement, and 2d, defect of excitement, and classifying treatment and medicines accordingly. But this also is a theory of *disease*, not a theory of *cure*, and involves a double theory, viz.: that of the disease and that of the action of the medicines, with this additional inconvenience,

that in proportion as it simplifies the forms of disease, so must it simplify the available powers of medicine, and regard them not, as they really are, infinitely varied, but merely as possessing one or other of the two properties of *exciting* or *allaying excitement*. To esteem so narrow a conception of the *materia medica* and of the morbid conditions of human nature as a definite foundation for the treatment of the countless forms of disease, would be to construct a pyramid upon its apex.

Similar in its essential character, viz., that of very extensive generalization appears to be the theory of Broussais, which ascribed a large proportion of diseases, if not in principle the whole, to mucous irritation, and met them by the simple remedy of blood-letting. (We do not assert this to be the sum total of his theory or treatment, but its characteristic feature, that which *individualized* it). Now, supposing the theory established in its full extent, that all diseases have a local origin and fixed character, consisting of irritation of the mucous membrane, this would be merely a theory of disease, not a theory of *cure*; and it would by no means follow from it, that the method of cure should be equally uniform and fixed; for it remains to be shown that the abstraction of blood is the cure for mucous irritation, and still further, that this cure can be effected by the abstraction of blood at so remote a distance as that which intervenes between the external surface of the body and the internal organs. Flattering, therefore, as the prospect of great simplicity may have been, even at the cost of so much vital powers as is implied in making the abstraction of blood the chief therapeutical agent, it cannot be maintained that even at this cost, a definite foundation has been laid.

It is somewhat indicative of the insufficiency of the various systems which we have thus very briefly reviewed, that they arose in general from each other, not by way of *development*, but of *opposition*. Thus the Dogmatic by its uncertainty led to the Empiric, the Empiric, by its want of classification, to the Methodic; the incompetency of any one of the preceding systems led to the Episyntetic and Eclectic; while the more recent schools may be considered merely as modifications of the earlier, chiefly of the pathological and methodical.

These changes, therefore, although extending through centuries by no means indicate

an advancement in medicine, but rather its low and uncertain state. Had a definite foundation been laid, we should expect the different theories of successive ages to arise from each other by way of development, for they are not destitute of *mutual relation*, nor are the characteristic features of all incapable of mutual harmony. Thus, pathology is related to empirism, empirism to method or classification, method to combination and selection. Had the foundation, therefore, been laid, all these forms might actually have existed, but they would have presented themselves under the aspect of *development*, not of opposition. Had it been laid in pathology, a link would have been established between that science and therapeutics; and classification, combination, and selection would have been also regulated by the same law, whatever it might be. But the difficulty has always been to establish the link between pathology and therapeutics: efforts directed to this end have hitherto proved fruitless, and it is probable they will always remain so. The proper object of pursuit, is a general law of *therapeutics*, the discovery of which must be made in the *region* of therapeutics, that is to say, in the application of medicinal agents to the human constitution. Until we have distinct convictions concerning the source whence we are to derive the object of our search, we may be laboring in a mine rich in its appropriate ore, but utterly destitute of that which we desire.

III. But has a definite foundation been laid by Homœopathy? We think it has: for a foundation for both theory and practice has been laid, if a true principle have been taught, and so eliminated as to be applied to practice; if a universal law of cure have been established which is of such a nature that the practice shall arise from the theory, and be itself dictated by the terms of the theoretic law. And this we conceive to be characteristic of Homœopathy; for the law "*similia similibus curantur*" which is the theoretic law, points immediately to those properties in a medicine which render it suitable to any given disease. No intervening theory of medicinal action is requisite; we do not inquire whether a medicine be anti-spasmodic, or relaxant, or stimulant: we inquire merely what are its obvious effects, and how far do they resemble the discoverable symptoms of the malady; so that in proportion as our knowledge of the *materia medica* is complete, will the disease itself af-

ford an index of its own cure. A law more perfect, and consequently a foundation more definite than this, we cannot conceive, though the application of it may require, as it undoubtedly does, careful observation; but the law having been enunciated, nothing more is necessary than a faithful and diligent investigation of its details in the operation of various medicinal substances; every new disease successfully treated in accordance with the principle, is cement added to the foundation, every new medicine adequately proved is a new stone in the superstructure.

That a foundation has been laid, may be inferred with some degree of confidence from the fact, that every well marked step of advancement in the ordinary method of practice, implies the adoption of one or other of the great characteristic features of Homœopathy. We do not say that they have been *borrowed* consciously or unconsciously from Homœopathy, though in some instances this may have been the case; the strength of our argument, however is rather confirmed than otherwise by regarding all such coincidences as perfectly independent, as the results arrived at by different minds working on the same subject, in different ways and with different preconceptions.

Now if we compare the present state of therapeutics, with its former state, we shall find the prominent differences to be: 1st. A greater simplicity in prescription, approaching the Homœopathic rule of administering only one medicine at a time; 2d. A diminution in the quantity of medicine administered; 3d. A more general treatment of diseases as of constitutional character; 4th. In a few instances, the adoption of specifics if not *nominally*, at least *virtually*, the same medicine being employed in similar form of disease, as mercury in syphilis and in certain derangements of the bilious secretions, cinchona in ague, &c.; 5th. These specifics, or some of them at least, have manifestly, and on all hands allowed, a certain amount of Homœopathic character—the mercurial action being with difficulty distinguished from the syphilitic; 6th. Some eminent lecturers on the *materia medica* have recommended the investigation of the properties of medicinal substances by experiments on the healthy rather than on the sick.

While this gradual and general adoption of the grand principles of Homœopathy by physicians of every school affords a striking cor-

roboration of their truth, and the more satisfactory in proportion as it is supposed to be the result of independent reflection in experience; the difference in the relative position which these characteristic principles hold in respect to Homœopathy, from that which they hold in respect to any other system, warrants our claiming for the former the merit of laying the foundation: for these principles *in their mutual relations* have been seized by Homœopaths, while by others they have been casually adopted, but without regard to their mutual relations. By the Homœopathist they have been shown so to arise from each other as, *when united*, to form a solid basis for theory and practice; by others, they have been severally adopted or rejected, but without that bond of union, that perception that one involves the other, which constitutes the cement, without which the foundation cannot be secure, and which affords the rule of measurement, without which it cannot be well defined.

It has been observed that at all periods of history, the state of medicine has reflected the philosophical movement of the particular epoch. In accordance with this remark, which we believe to be correct, it may be interesting to notice the general features of those philosophical movements which characterize the present age; by which we understand, not entirely or principally, the prevalent bent of the mind among the public generally, and intellectual men in particular, but also, and chiefly, the character of those laws of nature which recent researches have elicited. The general bent of the human mind in the nineteenth century is towards an exclusive appreciation of *facts*. No theory is much valued unless established by *facts*, and no theory is considered too startling for credence, if *facts* can be adduced in its support. Ideas which had grown obsolete, because uncongenial to the public mind, rather than because they had been proved to be inconsistent with reason, have revived and in many instances been adopted, and the sole demand is that it should be supported by *facts*. The *prima facie* condemnation which formerly greeted them is exchanged for a demand for *facts*. This is evinced (though partially) in the treatment given to recent revivals of mesmerism and of the transmutation of metals. Though the old spirit of prejudice has no doubt been allowed to exert an undue influence, yet we can hardly contemplate the numerous and crowded meetings assembled for

the witnessing of professed experiments, without regarding them as an expression of the public mind saying "give us *facts*," nor can we regard the *sceptical* but still in intention, at least, the *fair* and *equitable* tests advanced by men of science, other than as a similar expression on *their* part.

Theories, no doubt, have been suggested in accordance with the present state of knowledge to explain these departments of science, but the demand is constantly for *facts*, and by these they must stand or fall. Now this exactly coincides with the spirit of Homœopathy and of its founder. There is something startling in the first aspect of the theory and in the details of the practice, but a resolute determination to be guided *only* by *facts* sustained its founder through many discouragements and difficulties to the completion of the method in its present form.

But in the more important feature of the inquiry, viz. the correspondence of the characteristics of Homœopathy with the characteristics of those laws of nature which recent researches have elicited the analogy is equally striking. These characteristics are—1st. A tendency towards the abolition of materialism, and of the supposed intervention of any physical or corporeal medium between the powers of the agent and the thing acted upon; in other words the resolution of all the phenomena of the material world into the results of *powers* rather than of material atoms or substances; corresponding to what is understood by the dynamisation of medicines, *i. e.* the eliciting of their characteristic virtues with as little as possible of brute matter; or indeed, as some have supposed, the imparting of their powers to the medium through which they are conveyed, in a manner somewhat analogous to the communication of magnetic power to any number of needles by contact with a single magnet.

2d. The effecting of great results by agents in themselves inappreciable—by the scientific application of natural laws previously known to a greater or less extent, but only recently developed in practice. Such are the effects of the electric telegraph, the electric clock and other applications of this single power of nature, perhaps the most subtle and recondite of all; a power which universally pervading creation, may, nevertheless, lie dormant and undiscovered, till called into action by mere friction, the simplest of all mechanical efforts, and which when elicited, affords scope for the

ingenuity of the most imaginative and the researches of the most laborious. To this agrees the employment of medicine in infinitesimal quantities.

3d. The recent application of chemistry to agriculture, which consists in a revelation of the *principles* which have all along, though perhaps unconsciously, been *practically* enforced, leads to a more accurate adaptation of the remedy to the defect (for this is the essential character of all manure); in other words, a more specific treatment of the necessities of the earth; and, in consequence, a much smaller expenditure of the material.

Finally: the tendency of all philosophical investigations is towards unity. In proportion as electricity, galvanism, gravitation, and even vitality, become known, they seem to converge to one common point. The ultimate principles of the material world are by chemical researches continually diminishing, and are, by some, supposed to be resolvable into one, whose various modes of combination give rise to the countless forms under which the material world presents itself. Unity is the demand of every thinking mind; unity is the goal to which every science tends; unity in principle, with vast variety in application, is the characteristic of Homœopathy: unity embracing, we conceive, not merely the limited questions of diseased humanity, but *every* question of an analogous nature, the maladies of the mind, the defects of the character, and the evils of man's social position.

The agreement, therefore, of the characteristic features of Homœopathy with those of recent scientific discoveries, or improved applications of known laws, which are seen to render more and more firm and defined the foundation of the various departments of science to which they belong, corroborates the assertion, that in the department to which it is especially applicable, it acts the same part. Recent scientific developments and applications render progress an absolute certainty, as truly as the planting of a living seed in a congenial soil is a prophetic act, to be fulfilled in due time by the growth of the corresponding herb; and the laying of the foundation of medical treatment in the great therapeutic law of Homœopathy will, we doubt not, be followed in time, though perhaps slowly, by a firm and well cemented superstructure. But it must not be forgotten, that to lay a foundation is not *itself* to raise a superstructure; the foundation may be perfect—the superstructure utterly

worthless; the foundation may be the work of a master—the superstructure the work of many unqualified workmen.

When we consider the actual state and results of Homœopathy as exhibited by statistical accounts, we are looking at the superstructure which *may* be *marred* and *must* be *modified* by each individual engaged in its construction; when we are studying the doctrines of Hahnemann, we are examining the foundation. He arranged and cemented and formed in one solid basis, the scattered and disjointed materials, which though in many instances known before his time, and actually in the hands of less skilful workmen, had remained incapable of supporting any superstructure, from the want of the guiding and uniting principle of a master mind.

The use of the word machinery in the terms of the proposition, seem to imply that the details of practice as well as the general principle, are contemplated, and we conceive that even in this point of view the position holds true. For, as we know, Homœopathy is the only system which has included the mode of preparation and the administration of medicines, the proportion of the dose and the method of investigating their properties, as part of the general system. In Homœopathy these details arise naturally from the very principle which is the basis of the whole. The connection between the law of cure and experiments on the healthy is not arbitrary or accidental the method of experimenting arises of necessity from the law, from which also it follows that the medicines must be kept perfectly distinct and administered singly; and from the same law it follows that the quantity of medicine administered in disease should be small, while the curative process depending on the reaction of the vital power, it follows that a considerable interval should elapse before the repetition of a medicine. These general rules of practice arise naturally from the essential principles of the theory, though it is impossible that any theory should assign exact limitations in particulars, which must be modified by the state of each individual patient, and the character of each individual disease.

The sum of our remarks amounts to the following propositions:

1. That no theory of *disease* can ever lay a definite foundation for practice.
2. That a theory of *cure* can alone do this.
3. That until Hahnemann, the labors of

physicians were directed principally towards the establishment of a theory of *disease*, and that this is characteristic of medical schools generally, even at the present day.

4. That the principle of Homœopathy, "*Similia similibus curantur*," is theory of *cure* and not of *disease*.

5. That from this principle of the *science* of medicine arise naturally the general principles of the *practice* of medicine; and therefore,

6. It is by Homœopathy alone that the principles and machinery of the science and art of medicine have attained a definite foundation.

CASES TREATED WITH HIGH POTENCIES.

BY DR. GROSS.

(Continued.)

" 'Tis above reason,' cried the doctor on one side. 'Tis below reason,' cried the others. 'Tis faith,' cried one. 'Tis a fiddlestick,' said the other. 'Tis possible' cried one. 'Tis impossible,' said the other."—TRISTAM SHANDY,

F., a maid servant, of nineteen years of age, was attacked with acute rheumatism going from one joint to another, with redness, swelling, and impossibility of moving the affected joint. The slightest touch or motion occasioned the most exquisite pain. On the 28th July I gave *Cocc.* (300) one gl., in three tablespoonfuls of water, one to be taken every four hours. On the 29th, great improvement had taken place. On the 30th, the knees and right elbow were free from pain, but the left elbow was still painful. On the 31st, the left arm was quite well, but pain had returned during the night in the right knee, which, however, again went off by eight in the morning. On the 1st of August she had no pain any where; could use her hands, and even knit. In consequence of a chill about a week subsequently she had a relapse, for which I again employed *Cocc.* (300) in the same manner, and on the following day all traces of the rheumatism were gone.

The wife of a clergyman who had had several easy labors, but had two years before had a difficult delivery, where it was necessary to use instruments, and a laceration of the perinæum was the result, was near the term of gestation. While going about her domestic duties two days before, the membranes had

burst, and the liquor amnii escaped. The attendant midwife found very little dilatation of the os uteri, and was of opinion that, as there was a complete absence of labour pains, the delivery would be greatly retarded. On being consulted, I gave a globule of *Secale corn.* (200,) to be dissolved in three tablespoonfuls of water, and one taken every hour. I was informed next day, that there was no time to give all the medicine, for immediately after the first dose powerful pains come on, and a strong female child was born feet foremost. I have seen the same results in several instances.

L., A peasant woman of strong constitution, about fifty years old, was suddenly attacked with a most severe erysipelas of the face. The whole countenance was swollen and frightfully disfigured, the eyes closed up; there was an exudation of acrid fluid, and the forehead was particularly red, and yielded much exudation. I dissolved one gl., of *Rhus.* (200) in water, and ordered a spoonful to be given every hour. The following day the swelling had fallen, the eyes were opened, and scabs formed especially on the forehead; the third day the scabs had increased, and I repeated the *Rhus* (200); the fourth day the scabs began to fall off; the fifth day I repeated the *Rhus* in solution; the sixth day the face was pretty smooth and very slightly red; on the seventh she exposed herself, against my orders to the open air, when the weather was very bad, but fortunately, without any bad effect. She was perfectly well.

Burgomaster K. had suffered periodically for many years from pressure and great uneasiness in the pit of the stomach. He had, at the same time, boring and shooting in the back, from one part to another, at one time more, at another less violent; sometimes behind, sometimes in front, so severe that he thought he would die, especially when in bed, where he could find no relief to his tortures in any position. This was followed by vomiting of his food, then of mucus, which was so sour as to set his teeth on edge, and thus the paroxysm ended. Nothing relieved him but external warmth, and that only for an instant. After such an attack some days passed over without any pain. The day previous to an attack there was always great irritability of temper, and at night the attack invariably came on. I prescribed a solution of one gl. of *Ars.* (900), a spoonful to be taken every

morning, an hour before breakfast. After the first dose the attack came on the same night, and recurred every following night with such severity that he declared, on the fourth day, he would take no more of the medicine, and sent to me for further advice. He was now only free from pain in the forenoon, every afternoon the attack came on, preceded by dyspnœa, then pain, as from fulness and constriction in the pit of the stomach, and as if thrusts of knives along the short ribs through the chest to the spine. I advised him to await patiently the issue without more medicine, and shortly afterwards the paroxysm ceased and never returned.

Postmaster S., about seventy years of age, had been accustomed to have his bowels opened by using Morrison's pills. He had used them for years, and entertained a high opinion of them. All at once, however, they failed to produce the desired effect, and the more he took the more uncomfortable he became. He called in his ordinary medical attendant, who sought to afford him relief by giving him Cream of Tartar and Carbonate of Potash, and applying leeches to the abdomen, but without any good effect. After eight days (the 20th of May), I was consulted, and found the following state:—Burning and excessive sensitiveness of the abdomen; frequent convulsive contractions of the abdomen, with pain whilst awake. After each evacuation of the bowels, which consisted of merely a spoonful of mucus, and to which he had very frequent calls, there was violent burning in the rectum. The clyster pipe, on being introduced, touches a painful place, and the fluid injected slowly passes off again immediately. If injected suddenly or forcibly, it causes much pain in the gut, and remains there, and only a little mucus is discharged. I gave *Arsen.* (400) one gl. Thereafter the convulsive movements came once again, with less pain, and the patient could now sneeze without discomfort. On the 23d, I found the abdomen quite free from pain; a hæmorrhoid had appeared at the anus, which caused burning pain. The evacuations were very thin; much inclination to sleep; great weakness; coldness of the body. The patient was very wayward, and put all around him to great discomfort. One globule of *Chamomilla* (200) removed this abnormal affection in a few hours. I then gave a globule of *Vernum* (200). On the 25th, the general state

was much improved; he had an extraordinary desire for beer, sour milk, and sugar-water, which I allowed him to gratify. He felt comfortable in the warm air out of doors, and was out for a short time in a garden chair. The extremities were only occasionally cold. The sleep was short; evacuations thin, whitish yellow, and could only be passed in a standing posture. He complained of pain in the back; had fixed ideas of a troublesome character, about which he wept. He got *Causticum* (400) one gl. On the 27th, the bowels were moved without difficulty in the sitting posture; the motions consisted of only white and yellow mucus; during the evacuation great pain in the loins. He could only pass his urine after the bowels had been moved, and then with such excessive pain as compelled him to scream. The urine was limpid; restless nights, with great excitability; lachrymose humor. I gave a globule of *Puls.* 300. On the 29th he was much better; he could almost walk alone. The motions consisted of yellow, thin fæces, without mucus, and he had several daily. No medicine. On the 3d of June he was quite well.—*British Journal of Homœopathy.*

CASE OF OBSTINATE AND FATAL CONSTIPATION.

Baltimore, May 19, 1848.

Doctor Kirby.—In the last number of your Journal you gave, with some remarks, Dr Parker's report of the progress and treatment of the case of Dr. Washington, which terminated fatally, and it reminded me of the report of a case, by Dr. W. R. H. of our city, the attending physicians, called a case of obstinate and fatal constipation, recorded in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Nov. 3, 1847.—as follows:

Sir,—I take the liberty of sending you an account of a case, the most remarkable that has ever occurred in my practice; and if you deem it of any interest to your readers you are at liberty to publish it in the Journal. The case is obstinate and fatal constipation, from insidious inflammation.

The patient was a married lady of our city, in middle life, and between four and five months advanced in pregnancy. I was called to the case some two or three days after she was taken down with symptoms of what she and her friends called colic—similar attacks of which she had had frequently before, and they commenced treating her with laudanum in the usual way, but without any effect.

When I saw her there was no tenderness

over the epigastrium upon pressure, and no fever, she simply had violent pain over the region of colon and stomach, attended with considerable flatulence, which would entirely disappear for a while and then return again. In a word, the case seemed to be one of *flatulent colic*. And as such, a solution of half a drachm of bi-carb. soda, with fifty drops of laudanum, was administered, to be followed with a full dose of oil, having the same amount of laudanum, provided the pain returned.

There was ease for two or three hours, when the pain returned, and the oil and laudanum were given, but rejected. Cal. and pulv. Dov. aa gr. x. were given, with some relief for a short time. This was followed by another dose of oil, which was again rejected. The pain returning and the stomach irritable, the following prescription was ordered:—R. S. mur. hydrarg., gr. xij; pulv. opii gr. ij. M. Ft. pil. iv. One to be taken every two hours, with laudanum, gtt. xi., between the pills, if they should prove insufficient to quiet him. The pills and laudanum were all taken, with but partial relief. The stomach being somewhat irritable, a dose of magnesia, to be repeated was ordered, to move the bowels. This was all rejected.

I now discovered, for the first time, and this was on the evening of the second day of my attendance, that there was some tenderness over the abdomen, on pressure—and some fever, though not very great. Thinking there might be some degree of inflammation present, and that it was not impossible for colic and inflammation to be combined, I determined to draw blood, and took about two ounces, and then had a large blister applied over the region of the stomach and bowels. She was left with an anodyne for the night.

Saw her next morning. No better. Had vomitings in the night, and the pain continuing all the time, though still returning at times with greater violence.

Being anxious that the bowels should be opened, all anodynes were stopped and senna and salts were administered in repeated doses, four in number without effect—two of which, however, were rejected.

Evening.—Stomach continues sick, and now rejects almost everything taken. There being some thirst, the free use of ice was allowed, and injections ordered. At bed-time visited her, and found that the pain had increased on pressure over the region of the stomach and colon—that there was some restlessness, with a moderate degree of fever. Ordered 24 leeches to be applied upon the abdomen, and followed by poultices.

Next morning saw the patient early. Found her no better, but rather worse. Sick stomach through the night, with occasional vomiting. Pain all the time, but still greater at some moments than others. The bowels not moved yet. Ordered the warm bath and injections to be repeated while in the bath, and the following pills of ox-gall and hyoseyamus—five grains of former with two and a half of latter, and croton oil, two drops, made into four pills—to be given alternately every two hours till the bowels were moved.

Mid-day saw patient. No better. Bowels not yet moved. Some of the medicine rejected.

Professor Monkur was now requested to see the case with me. At four o'clock, P. M., we met. The patient no better, and no operation yet.

The doctor advised calomel to be given in large doses. Three powders were ordered; the first of twenty, the second of fifteen, and the third of twenty grains; the first to be followed in two hours with half an ounce of oil tereb. rubbed up in an emulsion—and so on through the night, till the bowels were moved.

Next morning both sent for to see the patient early. Found her much worse, though she retained the medicine, and took the whole prescribed; which amounted to forty-five grains of calomel and one ounce oil of turpentine—which added to the twenty-two grains previously given made now seventy-six grains of calomel in her system—and yet no motion of the bowels. As there was no time to lose, the doctor thought we might venture on five drops of croton oil at a dose, as he said he had given as high as seven drops with good effect. This was given, injections of turpentine ordered, and the patient visited again at 10 o'clock. Found the medicine had been retained, but bowels not moved. She was now evidently sinking fast. There was great restlessness, tossing from side to side of the bed; not so great, but still complains very much. Ordered mercurial unguent to be rubbed freely over the abdomen, inner side of the thighs, and arm-pits—and directed a dose of oil.

6 o'clock, P. M.—Met, and found there was still no operation, and the patient was evidently *in articulo mortis*. She died about three hours after.

Post-Mortem Examination, 10 o'clock next morning.—Abdomen considerably distended. Colon greatly enlarged by wind, fluid injections, and some feculent matter. No hardened feces discovered. Next to its size, the most prominent alteration was the high grade of inflammation seen throughout the whole course, and most especially on its left ascending portion, commencing at the caput coli. Here the redness was intense, with incipient patches of mortification at different points. The small intestines showed a considerable amount of redness in different parts of their course, but not in so high a degree as the colon. The colon, in fact, showed that it was the great focus of all the distress, and the cause of death. No hardened and impacted feces, no intussusception, no strangulation, could be discovered—the inflammation alone seeming to be the cause of all the torpor and want of contractile power shown by the bowels. The distention of the colon by wind or gas may, probably, have had some share in this general paralysis of its muscular apparatus. The stomach was slightly inflamed—also the peritoneum. Liver and spleen looked healthy. Uterus somewhat inflamed—and the right Fallopian tube, with its fimbriated extremity, greatly engorged with venous blood.

Remarks.—It seems evident, at least to our mind, that in the above case there must have

been inflammation of the colon from the very beginning, and that its true character was masked by the symptoms of colic, which were associated with it and predominant at the outset. And this teaches us the important fact, that not only these two diseases can come together, but that an insidious, highly dangerous and fatal inflammation may also be going on at the same time in the system, unsuspected, till the Rubicon has been passed, the citadel of life stormed, and medical skill consequently put at defiance.

Most Respectfully,

W. R. HANDY.

Baltimore Md., Oct. 28. 1847.

You may say what you will, Mr. Editor of the skill of your New York faculty of physic, and of your heroic practitioners of medicine, but I venture to assert that you cannot give a case in the medical annals of your state, which will compare with the above case of "*obstinate and fatal constipation*." Consider it:—The patient was a female, in the most delicate physiological relations of the human systems, "between four and five months advanced in pregnancy; was taken down with symptoms of what *she and her friends called colic* : it had continued three days. When the doctor was called in, treated with laudanum, in the usual way. First dose of her attendant, a drachm of Bi-Carb. Sod., with fifty drops of laudanum, followed by a full dose of oil. Next prescription, Calomel and pulv. Doveri aa grs. x., followed by another dose of oil. Next prescription, Calomel grs. x. ij., opii ij., with laudanum, forty drops to be taken between the pills, if pains continued. All were given, relief partial, *no operation from bowels*. Next prescription a dose of magnesia, and repeated: no action upon the bowels but ejected by the mouth. Next prescription, senna and salts in repeated doses, *four in number*, without effect, two of which were ejected. Next prescription, ice ordered, and injections. Next prescription, 24 leeches, followed by poultices. Next prescription, warm bath and injections. *No action on the bowels*. Next prescription, Ox-gall, grs. v., Hyoscyamus, grs. ijs., Croton oil 2 drops, in 4 pills, to be given every two hours till bowels were moved. *No action yet*. Next prescription, in consultation, calomel, three doses, one of twenty grains, one of fifteen grains, one of twenty grains, to be followed in two hours with half an ounce of oil of turpentine, and to be repeated through the night, until bowels were moved. Next morning no motion, although she had taken during the night forty-five grains of calomel, and an ounce of oil of

turpentine. which made in all sixty-seven grains of calomel and no operation. Next prescription, *five drops of Croton oil*, and injections of turpentine, a few hours after, her bowels not being moved, although the medicine was all retained, report says she was sinking fast, great restlessness and tossing, and the next and last prescription, was mercurial frictions to abdomen, thighs and arm-pits, and a dose of castor oil. Eight hours after, there had been no action in the bowels, and the patient died three hours after. When we read the result of the post-mortem examination, and learn that the bowels contained "no hardened fœces," to require removal, no intussusception, no strangulation," one would ask, why all this heroism in her treatment. When I was undergoing medical tuition, I well remember how careful my preceptor was to warn me of this difference between colic and enteritis, and have seen many cases to show me the importance of the diagnostics in such cases. I would like to have seen this case of "obstinate constipation" treated homœopathically, or if that was not practicable, by some experienced nurse. The gentleman who attended the case, are both professors of many years experience, and their decided energy in the case would cause one to exclaim with the old lady who heard of the death of "poor John," "Well, he was to have died, any how, for he was bled seventeen times.

Truly Yours,

F. R. McMANUS.

HOMŒOPATHY MISREPRESENTED.

The *Missouri Medical and Surgical Journal* has an article on homœopathy, which is about as near a true explanation of that system of medicine, as we usually meet with from those who know little or nothing of the subject.

It has always seemed to us a remarkable fact, that most allopathic physicians do not comprehend *similia similibus curantur*. Almost without an exception whenever they attempt an illustration of that therapeutic law, they confound the cause of a disease and the remedy, and represent them as identical. This is the case with Dr. Coon of the above Journal. He says :

"If we push mercury until *ptyalism* is the result, is it possible that by persevering in the use of mercury you will cure your patient of salivation."

He says also. :

"If a person should be poisoned with arsenic, would it be proper to give arsenic in order to neutralize the poison. No. And yet the affirmative of this question is the theory of Hahnemann."

This is either a wilful perversion of the truth, or an instance of gross ignorance of it. The law of cure may be thus expressed; "*that only such remedies are capable of effecting a real and permanent cure as affect the healthy organism in a manner similar to the natural disease.*" We do not perceive in this, nor will any one else, except the editor of the *Missouri Journal* and his colleagues, that an arsenical poisoning is to be cured by arsenic; or that a salivation of mercury is to be cured by persevering in the use of that mineral.

We cannot waste our time in a notice of other parts of the article in question, as no benefit could accrue to any one if we did so. The article almost without an exception is made up of misrepresentations, absurdities, and exceedingly illogical reasoning, even were the premises true.

CASE OF FREEMAN, THE MURDERER OF THE VANNESST FAMILY.

B. FOSGATE, M. D., AUBURN, N. Y.

We publish this case not only for its intrinsic interest in an historical and moral point of view, but because it is drawn up with uncommon elegance, and in a medico-legal point of view, affords a most striking illustration of the importance of this science to the welfare of men. It saved, in this instance, by its generous application the life of an unaccountable agent from sacrifice.

"With the exception of a slight admixture of aboriginal blood, he was of African descent.

"At the age of sixteen he was unjustly sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the State Prison at Auburn, for grand larceny. He left his prison conscious of the injustice he had suffered, and had imbibed an idea that he was entitled to pay for his time. This sentiment could not be eradicated from his mind, and on several occasions he applied for warrants against those he supposed liable. Remuneration with him was the *one idea*. Failing in this mode of obtaining redress, he armed himself with a common butcher's knife, and a cane with a blade attached to the lower end, and from his lodging made his way to Owasco Lake, at about sunset on the 12th of March, 1846. After examining two or three premises, he finally selected the residence of Mr. Van Nest as the proper place to begin 'his work,' as he termed it, and there massacred Mr. Van Nest, his wife and one child, aged two years old, and Mrs. Wycoff, aged 70. He stabbed Mr. Vanarsdale in the chest, who subsequently recovered. In the affray he

entered every room in the house, both above and below, but took nothing away. He went to the stable, unfastened and mounted a horse and was some rods from the scene of devastation in the incredibly short space of five minutes from the time of entering the house, as was proved in the evidence. Three days afterward he was committed to Cayuga county jail to await his trial.

"He was tried at a special session of Oyer and Terminer, July 1846—first, as to whether he was sane at the time of trial, and secondly, on the indictment. A verdict of sufficient soundness of mind to be put on trial was rendered on the preliminary issue, and of wilful murder on the indictment. Subsequently, however, a new trial was granted by the Supreme Court. A trial calling forth so much talent in its prosecution, and arousing such fearful excitement among the people, is of rare occurrence.

"On the part of the people, the cause was conducted by Hon. John Van Buren, Attorney General of the State of New York, and for the defence by Hon. William H. Seward, ex-governor of this state.

"My knowledge of the prisoner commenced on the 16th of March, 1846, being the day after his commitment, and it continued until the completion of a post-mortem examination of his body on the 21st of August, 1847.

"During the scene at Van Nest's, he received a severe wound in the articulation of the right thumb with the carpus—the artery barely escaping division. This circumstance saved the lives of other members of the family, because, to use his own expression, he couldn't 'handle his hand any longer.'

"My services were required on account of this injury. In addition to the wound, I also found him entirely deaf in the left, and partially so in the right ear.

"It was a singular circumstance that he never made an inquiry as to either the extent or condition of the injury, or the time necessary to complete a cure, or the prospect of recovering the use of his hand—though it was the right, and as a laborer his main dependence. Neither did he complain of any sensibility in the wound, although the physical evidences of pain accompanying the inflammatory stage were such as to leave no doubt of its existence. In fact from the time of his commitment until the day of his death, although he often saw, and was attended by me, through his last sickness, he asked only two questions, one about his medicine, the other regarding his diet, and these were made during his last illness.

"During the principal part of his incarceration, he passed his time standing; his body erect his head a little drooping, and with arms folded. He sustained this posture with statue-like stillness—indicating great muscular strength. He exhibited a calm quiet expression of countenance, occasionally broken by a smile, which had the appearance of just bursting into laughter, but would quickly subside, leaving the same unalterable expression as undisturbed as though a gleam of

mirthfulness had never occupied his fancies. To the careless observer, it appeared as though he endeavored to suppress an irresistible propensity to laugh. This smile was never accompanied by any vocal sound, but often glowed upon his features, regardless of time, place, or circumstance, indicative of intense mental emotion. For this emotion he could never assign a cause. I say he never could, because, when asked, he always said he 'didn't know.' My conclusion is also based upon the remarkable fact, that on the trial *seventy-two* witnesses on both sides coincided in the opinion, that the prisoner did not intend to deceive in any reply made to the numerous interrogatories put to him.

"His deafness increased until the sense of hearing was nearly, if not quite obliterated. I doubt whether he heard any conversation for the last two weeks of his life; at all events, I could not get a reply that harmonised with my question.

"On the 12th of April, 1847, I was called to see the patient as being 'not very well.' He had a quick thready pulse—considerable cough, with free expectoration—not much appetite, but rather thirsty. He made no allusion to these symptoms, but directed my attention to his left ear, which discharged pus profusely. From this time forth, the aural discharge continued, accompanied by all the symptoms of tubercular phthisis, until his existence terminated, six days after the chain that bound him to the masonry of his cell had been removed.

"About three weeks previous to his disease, I observed a prominent protrusion of the left eye, and upon further examination there proved to be an entire obliteration of vision. He could not close the lids over it, for they, with all the muscles of that side of the face, were paralysed, and the mouth considerably drawn to the right. The cornea of both organs had much the same appearance. The loss of vision, I am inclined to think, was the result of functional, not organic lesion. The protrusion depended most probably upon the loss of muscular power in its motor apparatus, in common with the muscles of that side of the face. The globe, *in articulo mortis*, recovered in a great measure its natural location, as did the paralysed muscles of the face—a common occurrence of facial distortion from nervous lesion at death.

"Owing to insufficiency of light in the cell, but more particularly to the shattered condition of the patient—being deaf, almost blind, and nearly speechless—no satisfactory account of symptoms or the effect of remedies could be obtained from him."

Here followed some phrenological observations which we omit.

"I have measured his cranium in two ways: First, by passing a string across the frontal and around the spinous process of the occipital bones.

It measured, in the greatest circumference, twenty-one inches. Secondly, after the directions laid down in Combe's Phrenology, by callipers.

	inches.
Viz. from occipital spine to individuality	7 3-8
" occipital spine to ear	4 1-2
" ear to individuality.	4 2-3
" ear to firmness	5 3-16
" destructiveness to destructiveness	5 3-8
" cautiousness to cautiousness	4 7-16
" ideality to ideality.	5 3-8

"On proceeding to a post-mortem examination, the body was found extremely emaciated. The costal and pulmonary pleura, though easily separated, were extensively adhered, and the lungs were an almost entire mass of disease. Tuberculous matter was interspersed with abscesses throughout the whole organ. The pericardium contained about one and a half gills of serum. The heart contained polypi, but had a healthy appearance. Liver natural. Gall bladder distended. Mucous membrane of the stomach slightly inflamed. Intestinal mucous coat healthy. Mesenteric glands tuberculous. Urinary bladder distended. Kidneys natural. The peritoneum appeared healthy, but the sac contained some fluid.

"Upon opening the cranium, the bones were found rather thinner than ordinary, particularly for a colored subject, and the dura mater, was adherent to a portion of the occiput. The anterior portion of this membrane was congested and inflamed, with considerable serum between it and the arachnoid. This latter tunic was somewhat thickened and congested. The anfractuositities of the right hemisphere of the cerebrum were filled with serum. The superficial vessels of the right anterior lobe highly congested on a superior surface. Cerebellum to all appearance healthy.

"The whole brain, separate from the dura-mater, weighed 43 3-4 ounces avoirdupois. Cerebrum 38 ounces. Cerebellum 53-4 ounces.

"On section of the medullary substance, it was found thickly studded with bright red points. The right thalami appeared to have undergone some change, and the whole superior brain was more or less congested. The membrane covering the petrous portion of the left cavity was congested, and the remaining parts of it appeared healthy.

"There was caries of the inner part of the petrous portion of the left temporal bone. The membrana tympani, with the internal structure of the ear, most obliterated. There was a necrosis containing fetid pus, having no perceptible connexion with the external ear.

Remarks.—The important question connected with this subject is, whether the pathological state of the brain, its membranes and the ear, was one of long standing or of recent occurrence? On this point rests the physical evidence of the prisoner's accountability. If by possibility it could be determined that the organ of mental manifestation was without disease when the crime was perpetrated, then depravity unparalleled must be assigned as the only cause; and if so, the disease of the organ at his decease could not be held in extenuation of his crimes.

"That the diseased condition of the brain was of long standing, appears to be unquestionable from the fact, that the mental organ could not sustain so great a lesion as the autopsy presented, without the mind having exhibited sudden and violent derangement, as well as other symptoms which accompany its acute diseases. This, however was not the case. He never complained of, or exhibited the ordinary symptoms in such instances, nor even gave evidence of any mental change whatever; but, on the contrary, presented the same characteristics throughout. During his last sickness, there was not a single symptom indicating acute inflammation of the brain, and yet, on examination after death, there were abundant and unequivocal evidence of inflammatory action there.

"The disease of the ear also was chronic, and dated its commencement some months previous to the commission of the crime. On his trial it was proved in evidence that about two years previous, when an inmate of the state prison—he was struck on the head with a board, the blow splitting the weapon into fragments. He attributed his deafness to this cause, or, to give his own description, 'it knocked his words down his throat—his ears dropped down—his kernels (meaning the tonsils) dropped.' Now, the infliction of this blow upon a thin skull, associated with his own account of its effects, would lead us to conclude that the concussion seriously injured the auditory apparatus. It possibly burst the tympanum, and if so, it opened a communication between the external ear and the fauces, which induced the remark that "it knocked his words down his throat," &c. Is it not a just conclusion, that from this injury the diseased action was set up which ultimately involved the whole brain?

"Whether the facial paralysis was the result of cerebral congestion, or whether it was owing to a diseased state of the nerves of motion in connexion with the condition of the ossa petrosa, may be questionable, because the nerves, as they passed the brain, were apparently healthy; but the right hemisphere of the brain being the most deeply implicated in the organic derangement, the paralysis would appear, as it did in this case, in the muscles of the opposite side.

"It should not be forgotten, that the deceased had passed through scenes of blood seldom equalled, where but a single individual was the aggressor; that he had been surrounded by the wild fury of an enraged populace for hours, that he had been chained and for a portion of the time bedded upon the stone floor of a dimly lighted cell, for almost eighteen months; suffering the jeers and grimaces of inhuman and uncounted spectators; wasting by a slow process of consumption; sustaining the blight of one physical energy after another; with little compassion and less than ordinary attention; and through the whole period, having scarcely asked a question regarding either friend or foe, soliciting no favor, showing no hatred, exhibiting no remorse, entering no complaint, and through all, sustaining an *undisturbed tranquillity*.

"From this concatenation of circumstances, this unruffled, equable, almost idiotic state of mind, that no external relation could disturb, or internal influence alter, we can scarcely come to any other conclusion by pathological reasoning, than that the state of mind which he exhibited subsequent to his arrest, depended on a chronic derangement of the mental organs, and must have existed antecedent to the crime itself. If such a combination of pathological facts, and all the other circumstances attending the prisoner from his arrest to his death, do not establish an unsound state of mind, they at least present one of the most extraordinary cases furnished by the annals of our race. Such a case demands the careful consideration of the philosopher and jurist.

"How much the cause of justice and philosophy is indebted to the unwearied perseverance of the eminent advocate who withstood the tide of popular indignation in conducting the prisoner's defence, is left for other hands to register; but true it is, that over prejudice and ignorance, science has gloriously triumphed.—*Am. Journal of Medical Sciences*.

A CASE TREATED AT THE NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

BY H. HULL CATOR, M. D.

One of the Attending Physicians.

Mrs. T. æt. 34 years, a widow, was admitted into the Dispensary about the first of March, 1848.

Two weeks previously, she was attacked with a severe cough, attended with acute pains all through the chest. Great oppression of the chest. Respiration anxious, stertorous and wheezing. The oppression of the chest and difficulty in breathing, were mitigated when the pain in the chest was the most intense and *vice versa*. Breathing short and difficult.

Cough aggravated by a recumbent posture, and at night, could not remain in bed, was compelled to assume an erect position. Sensation as of excoriation in the throat, chest and pit of the stomach, especially when coughing. Sensation of coldness in the chest. Coldness of the hands and feet. Debility. Loss of appetite.

Arsenicum alb. 30th one dose.

On the 3rd of March returned to the dispensary and reported herself no better. The cough was now very severe and dry, which continued all night so violent as to keep her awake. Cough worse on lying down, and ameliorated in the open air. When coughing, pain in the head, stomach and abdomen. Dartings as if from knives in the chest. Palpitation of the heart, &c.

Sulph. 30th one dose.

March 4th. Felt some relief from the last remedy. Coughed much less last night.

No medicine.

March 6th. Was requested to visit her at her residence. Found her much worse. Her case now presented an alarming appearance, all her symptoms violent. Complained of severe throbbing pains all through the head, with darting pains, could bear neither light nor noise, great difficulty of breathing, wheezing respiration; sensibility and swelling of the larynx. Pulsation in the neck; could not bear the least pressure upon it, which produced a sensation of suffocation, also by throwing back the head. Violent palpitation of the heart. Great prostration, almost to syncope. Could not raise her head from the pillow. Asthmatic breathing and constant disposition to cough. No appetite. Bowels confined.

Lacheses 30 one dose.

March 12th. Found her entirely relieved. Symptoms all gone; appetite returned; strength very much increased; was sitting up and at work. Discharged her.

I may here remark, that I have had several opportunities of conversing with this lady, since her illness, and on each occasion she expressed her deep felt gratitude, for so unexpected and speedy recovery. She regarded her case incurable and so expressed herself at my first visit, and, now says, she is indebted to Homœopathy for her life. She has had no return of the disease up to this time, it now being nearly three months.

DEATH OF DR. GROSS.

We regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Gustav Wilhelm Gross, who breathed his last at Juterbogk, in Prussia, which had for so many years been the scene of his labors, on the 18th of September last.

Dr. Gross was one of Hahnemann's earliest disciples, and from his earliest adoption of Homœopathy up to his death, we find him actively engaged in the work of disseminating a knowledge of the new system, at one time furnishing practical and theoretical papers to the *Archiv*, and editing that journal in conjunction with Stapf, now engaged in the translation of his master's works into Latin, and again, occupied with the editorship of the *Allgemeine Homœopathische Zeitung*, in conjunction with Rummel and Hartmann, besides publishing divers small works, and being perpetually occupied in the proving of new medicines, some of the most valuable of which we owe entirely to him, and most of those given us by Hahnemann being enriched by experiments on himself and others. Nor has his career been unmarked by deviations from Hahnemann's beaten track. Accordingly, we first find him practically opposing Hahnemann's precepts and giving larger doses than usual; again we find him incurring Hahnemann's severe censure for his isopathic views. And after Hahnemann's death he immediately broached his extraordinary views on dynamization and the high dilutions, an account of which we have given in our last volume.

Whatever may be the opinion entertained of Dr. Gross's novel views and therapeutic eccentricities, none will deny him the character of indefatigable industry and untiring zeal in advancing the new system, nor is it possible to doubt the sincerity of his convictions nor his earnestness of purpose, and hereafter, when the sifting hand of time shall have winnowed the good seed from the chaff, the name of Gross will be regarded and respected as that of one of the stoutest champions of our faith—as that of one of the largest contributors to our remedial treasury. —*Brit. Jour. Hom.*

We know nothing of Dr. Gross but from his writings. From what we have learned of him in this way, we doubt if the above notice does him the justice he merits. Ought he to be regarded as holding "therapeutic eccentricities" because he at one time employed in his practice "larger doses than usual"; and at another, attenuated medicines beyond the standard of Hahnemann; and that he applied the term *Isopathy* erroneously to phenomena which are now believed to have been the result of the homœopathic law?

Some of the statements in the above obituary remind us of a Spanish proverb: "A wise man changeth his mind, but a fool never does." The laudation which is sometimes bestowed upon men on account of firmness in adherence to doctrines they may have once promulgated, however false, is inconsistent with the age in which we live; especially is it so, with the art of medicine of this period. The "novel views and therapeutic eccentricities" of Dr. Gross placed him, we think, a little nearer to the true art of medicine than perhaps any one his colleagues either in Europe or in this country; and that which the British Journal now regards "the chaff" may prove to be the "good seed."

The Fifth Anniversary session of the American Institute of Homœopathy will be held in this city, at the Society Library, No. 346 Broadway, on the second Wednesday of June inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Committee of the American Institute of Homœopathy on *Elections*, will meet on Tuesday, June 13th, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at the Homœopathic Dispensary, 57 Bond street, in the city of New York. Candidates for membership of the Institute are requested to meet the Committee at that time and place.

Several articles which we had prepared for this number of the Journal have been left out to make room for the valuable paper from the "British Journal of Homœopathy." The numbers for January and April of that Journal were received a few days ago.

The spread of sound principles in medicine, in England and other parts of Europe, is of the most encouraging character to the friends of Homœopathy.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. 3.

New York, July, 1848.

NO. 3.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, JULY, 1848.

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*Proceedings of the Fifth Anniversary Session  
of the American Institute of Homœopathy  
held in New York, on Wednesday, June  
14th, 1848.*

The Institute was called to order at 10 o'clock by the Provisional Secretary.

The election of officers being first in order, the Institute proceeded to ballot for Chairman.

Docts. Kirby and Barlow were appointed tellers, who announced the unanimous election of Walter Williamson, M. D., of Philadelphia, as Chairman of the Convention.

The following officers were then ballotted for and elected.

For General Secretary, Edward Bayard, M. D. of New York.

R. A. Snow, M. D., of New York, Provisional Secretary.

Treasurer, S. R. Kirby, M. D. of New-York.

The reading of the minutes of the last session, was on motion dispensed with.

The roll of Members was then called, and on the report of the Committee on Elections, the following gentlemen were elected Members of the Institute.

L. G. Vinal, M. D.—A Koch, M. D. of Philadelphia,

J. Beakley, M. D.—F. W. Donovan, M. D.

—H. Kinsley, M. D.—Adam Miller, M. D.

—L. T. Warner, M. D., of New York.

G. Gurnsey, M. D.—S. C. Hanford, M.

D.—M. H. Palmer M. D. of Williamsburgh.

J. R. Brown, M. D., Phoenix, N. Y.

D. S. Smith, M. D., Chicago, Ill.

L. Keep, M. D., Fair Haven, Ct.

J. D. Middleton, M. D., Baltimore, Md.

J. D. More, M. D., Newtown, Pa.

S. H. Norton, M. D., Bridgeport, Ct.

J. B. Petherbridge, Paterson, N. J.

George Barrows, M. D., Taunton, Mass.

Dr. D. H. Beard, Troy, Vt.

E. E. Marcy, M. D.—C. A. Taft, M. D., Hartford, Ct.

N. Stebbins, M. D., Clinton, N. Y.

W. G. Wolcott, M. D., White Hall, N. Y.

L. B. Wells, M. D., Pompey, N. Y.

A. C. Burke, M. D.—R. M. Stansbury, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

J. K. Reading, M. D. Byberry, Pa.

J. C. Raymond, M. D., Waterville, N. Y.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Dr. Wells from the Committee on that subject, offered a report on *Posology*. Dr. Wells stated that the report was made without the

co-operation of the other members of the committee.

The report was read, discussed at some length, and ordered to be printed.

Dr. Kirby, on leave, offered the following Resolution, which was read, laid on the table and subsequently called up and adopted. Resolved:

That the Reports of Committees on the Science or Art of Medicine be received and recorded among the proceedings of the Institute, without a vote upon them.

On motion of Dr. Gray, 250 copies of Dr. Wells's Report were ordered to be printed for the use of members.

Dr. Flagg from the Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature presented a report in part. The report was in part read, and laid upon the table for future consideration.

The Institute adjourned at 3 o'clock, to meet at 8 o'clock in the evening, to hear the Annual Address by Dr. Jeanes.

#### Wednesday Evening.

The Convention met at 8 o'clock, at which time Dr. Jeanes delivered his address.

The address was listened to by the members of the Institute, and a highly respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen.

On motion of Dr. Gregg of Boston, the thanks of the Institute were presented to Dr. Jeanes for his able and highly interesting address.

The Institute then adjourned to Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.

#### Thursday, June 15th.

The Convention was called to order by the Chairman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Reports of Committees being in order, Dr. Baxter was called to the chair, when Dr. Williamson presented a report from the Central Bureau, which was read and ordered to be printed.

Dr. Jeanes read his report on blood-letting, which was ordered to be printed.

Dr. Payne sent in his report on Emetics and Cathartics which was read in part, and for want of time, the further reading was suspended.

Dr. Snow presented a report in part on the employment of Water as a therapeutic agent, which was read, and on request of the Committee was recommitted to report in full at the next meeting of the Institute.

A report on surgical means was then read by Dr. Joslin, and ordered to be printed.

The reports on blisters and other external irritants being called for, Dr. Bayard stated that he was prepared to report only in part, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

On leave Dr. Gray offered the following resolution.

That a committee of three, with power to add to their numbers be appointed, to translate Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* for publication without note or comment.

Dr. Kirby then moved that the committee on translation of the above work, be requested to procure the publication of the same under its supervision, which was adopted.

On motion a Committee of Seven was appointed to nominate the Committee for translating and publishing the *Materia Medica Pura*—viz: Docts. Jeanes, Gray, Flagg, Gallup, Wild, Wells and Dunnel.

In behalf of the committee on medical education, Dr. Kirby stated that they were not prepared to report and asked leave to sit again—granted.

The committee to nominate three members to translate and publish the *Materia Medica Pura*, presented the names of Drs. Gray, Wells and Quin, who were unanimously elected to constitute the committee for that purpose.

The following committees on elections were then appointed by the chairman.

F. R. McManus, M. D., Baltimore.  
C. Whitehead, M. D., Harrisburgh.  
J. M. Quin M. D., New York.  
E. Clark, M. D., Portland.  
Saml. Gregg, M. D., Boston.

The following members re-appointed to constitute the Central Bureau.

C. Hering, M. D. Jacob Jeanes, M. D. W. Williamson, M. D., and J. Kitchen, M. D. of Philadelphia.

Dr. Joslin, of New York, was appointed to



deliver the next Annual Address before the members of the Institute.

On motion, it was resolved, That the next meeting of the Institute be held in Albany on the second Monday in June next.

The above resolution, after some discussion, was reconsidered, and it was then moved and carried that the next session of the Institute be held in Philadelphia, in June, 1849.

Adjourned at 2 o'clock to meet again at 4 o'clock.

Thursday afternoon.

At 4 o'clock, in the temporary absence of the Chairman and Secretaries, Dr. B. F. Bowers was appointed Chairman pro. tem., and Dr. H. G. Dannel Secretary pro. tem.

The further reading of the report of Dr. Payne was called for, and on motion, it was recommitted to the Committee, to be condensed for publication.

The report of the Treasurer was called for, read and ordered to be placed on file.

On motion, the Treasurer was directed to prepare and present bills for the annual assessment to members who had not paid the same.

On motion, it was resolved, That the list of members of the Institute be published with the proceedings.

The report on Anatomical Nomenclature was then called up, and after some remarks by Dr. Jeanes, it was recommitted to the Committee for completion.

A Communication was received from the "Homœopathic Society of Northern New York," which was read and placed on file.

Communications were also received and placed on file, from

J. H. A. Fehr, M. D., Lexington,

C. A. Stevens, M. D., of Buffalo,

J. Roberts, M. D. of Vassalton.

Dr. Gray proposed a resolution that a Committee of three be appointed to enquire and report whether the name of the *American Institute of Homœopathy* had been employed in an improper manner by any local society, which was carried: and on motion, Dr. Williamson was appointed Chairman of such Committee, and was requested to appoint his cotemporaries. The Chair then appointed Dr. Flagg, of Boston, and Dr. Whitehead, of Harrisburgh, both of whom declined serving.

On motion of Dr. Gray, a vote of thanks was presented to Dr. Williamson for the able,

patient and impartial manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the Convention.

On motion, adjourned to second Wednesday in June, 1849.

EDWARD BAYARD,

*General Secretary.*

## ON BLOOD-LETTING.

BY JACOB JEANES, M. D., OF PHILADELPHIA.

*Read before the American Institute of Homœopathy, June 1848.*

The committee appointed last year, "to report to the Institute at its next annual meeting, on the employment and effects of blood-letting and its incompatibility with homœopa practice:" reports.

That it has endeavored to give the subject the full consideration which is demanded by its importance, but that it has been unable to prepare itself for reporting in full, and therefore wishes that the present shall be considered merely as a report in part made to show that progress in the matter confided to its care has been attempted.

The committee proposes to report in order in which the subject has been proposed to it; and therefore will first direct attention to the employment of blood-letting.

This is very extensive, and resorted to for two very opposite purposes, namely: to destroy life, and to cure diseases.

The first of these purposes; that is, the destruction of life is very easily effected by blood-letting, which is therefore very generally resorted to in killing animals for food.

The latter purpose; that of curing diseases, is one of doubtful attainment. The idea of thus employing blood-letting is admitted to have originated with savage tribes: and the records of medicine show that it has been thus employed by physicians for the last two thousand years.

Bold or reckless, must we consider the man, who with the fact of the death producing property of blood-letting before his eyes, first dared to open a sluice for the escape of the blood, a fluid so necessary to life, though his object were the cure of diseases. What happy accidents, what course of ratiocination or what inspiration prompted the adoption of such an apparently irrational procedure to this man, savage or civilized, we know not.

But we do know that its use as a remedy by

savage tribes has been employed as an argument in its favor. It is however an argument which cannot meet with acceptance before a scientific tribunal, where its employment will be viewed as the evidence of the weakness of the cause, as it affords an acknowledgment that the other proofs in its favor are deficient.

If we turn to medical history we find that Hippocrates employed blood-letting as a remedial means. He is said to have used it "as an evacuant, in order to get rid of redundant matters in the system : Secondly, for the purpose of changing the determination of the blood to or from particular parts, as circumstances might seem to require : Thirdly, for "restoring a free movement of the blood and animal spirits in cases where they were supposed to be stagnant or obstructed, as in apoplexy and palsy : Fourthly, "to cool the body when morbidly or preternaturally heated."

Asclepiodes appears to have employed blood-letting to restore a correspondence between imaginary corpuscular atoms and pores.

The methodic sect employed it to produce relaxation, "all diseases consisting, according to their tenets, either in too great rigidity, or its opposite, relaxation."

Celsus appears to have employed blood-letting empirically, but he "did not bleed (except in urgent cases) earlier than the second day of the disease, on account, as he observes, of the crudity of the humors that are not yet ripe for evacuation ; and he objected likewise, to taking away blood later than the fourth day, for the reason that, by this time, the bad humors would be dissipated spontaneously, or, at least, have made their full impression on the system, in which case the only effect of bleeding would be, that of needlessly weakening the patient.

Galen appears to have coincided in most points with Hippocrates, although more favorable to frequent small bleedings and more averse to single large ones than the latter.

The Arabian physicians differed from the disciples of Hippocrates and Galen in regard to the points from which the blood should be drawn relatively to the disease : for while the latter taught that the blood should be drawn from the side which is affected, the former directed its abstraction from the opposite side. This difference of opinion "was the cause of great and lasting dissension in the schools of physic, and entire volumes were written and

published on the different sides of the question. To such a height, indeed, was the dispute carried, that the University of Salamanca, in the fifteenth century, took part with the Arabians, and made a decree that no one should dare to let blood from the side affected ; and to add authority to their decree, they endeavored to procure an edict from the Emperor, Charles the Fifth, to confirm it, alleging that the contrary practice was as prejudicial to the community as Luther's heresy itself.

The committee need not point out the fact that the history of blood-letting affords us no rational ground for its employment, any more than do the modern conflicting theories of its *modus operandi*.

The committee next proposed to examine the effects of blood-letting in quantities not quite sufficient to destroy life, and it will state them in the language of a modern advocate of blood-letting.

"There is commonly first experienced a slight feeling of languor ; and if the pulse at the wrist be examined, it will be found to beat more feebly, and often more slowly, than before, though sometimes the reverse of this takes place. Breathing also becomes slower, in conformity with the pulse. And it is often irregular, with deep sighs. If the flow of blood goes on, the languor increases ; the pulse becomes still more feeble and sometimes fluttering. To these succeed paleness and coldness of the skin, and shrinking of the features ; cold drops of sweat hang on the forehead, and sometimes perspiration breaks out over the whole surface ; the eyes look glassy and the pupils are dilated. Occasionally, also, there is vomiting, with other involuntary discharges ; and in a few instances, epilepsy, or convulsive movements, more or less general take place. The pulse, at last, is not to be felt ; respiration ceases, and consciousness is wholly lost. This is the state termed syncope or fainting ; during which, if complete, there is, in appearance, an entire suspension of all vital movements, morbid as well as healthy ; it is, in fact, a state of apparent death.

"The effects now described are, for the most part, temporary in duration, and continue but for a short space of time ; it may be for a few minutes only, rarely for half an hour ; when the pulse again begins to be felt at the wrist ; respiration is renewed, often with yawning ; and consciousness returns. Hysterical laughing or crying occasionally takes place, as the patient recovers from the fainting state." "In



some instances, head-ache of a throbbing kind takes place soon after bleeding, and which may continue for several hours; and, sometimes, the following night is passed without sleep." "Where blood has been largely and repeatedly drawn, the weakness induced by it is in proportion to the quantity of blood lost, and is often very durable. The skin remains pale, and bloodless in appearance, for many months; there is great langour, or feeling of weakness; and an imperfect, and sometimes an irregular, performance of all or most of the functions."

That this is a fair picture of the effects of blood-letting in quantities not quite sufficient to kill, that is, in the quantities abstracted for the cure of disease, must be admitted by all who have any knowledge of the subject. If such are the effects upon persons in health, what must they be upon persons already prostrated by disease. If the healthy arise but slowly out of the debility produced by blood-letting must not those debilitated by disease often succumb to combined maladies; namely, the original disease and effects of the loss of blood. And how numerous are the proofs which may be selected from the writings even of the advocates of blood-letting, that persons do thus perish.

On these grounds blood-letting must be viewed, as being, at best, a very dangerous remedial means. But another question has to be answered, and that is: whether blood-letting is ever a remedy?

Startling as this question may be to those who have, all their lives, been in the habit of viewing blood-letting as an undoubted remedial means; it is not the less worthy of examination. If we have yet no satisfactory explanation of its *modus operandi* in the cure of disease;—and this we have not:—we have no rational basis for its employment except that of empiricism: namely, the proofs furnished by experience of its value. And here we will be told of the vast advantages which it affords in the treatment of inflammations. Let us look at it, indeed, and observe the innumerable cases of *phrenitis*, of *ophthalmia*, of *otitis*, of *cynanche* of *pneumonia*, of *peritonitis*, &c., &c., which resist this treatment however early and actively employed. But we will be told to note this case of pleurisy and to mark how the patient is relieved as the blood flows. It is a fact he suffers less pain, he had taken a deeper inspiration. But how is the case twelve hours afterwards? The pain is equal-

ly intense, and the respiration is as short as ever. He is bled again and is again relieved, but again the pain returns. Then come the cups which are followed by blisters, and then, if not before, antimonial and other drugs are thrown into the stomach. What has this vaunted remedy performed which acted like a charm in subduing the pain, that it needs to be followed by these aids?

Look at its *pathogenesis* and you will soon perceive what it has done. It produces syncope, fainting, a state of apparent death, in which all consciousness is lost. As the blood flowed, you could observe the process going on; the signs of syncope were accumulating; the loss of consciousness as a part of the same was also advancing. As it became more and more complete the power of perceiving the disorder was destroyed, less pain was necessarily felt, though the disease was not in the slightest degree abated. And as consciousness returned the system could again perceive its disorder. A blow on the head with a club, provided it was severe enough to have stunned him, would have answered nearly the same purpose.

But there is the buff coat which sometimes appears upon the blood abstracted in inflammations, and which often cannot be found; and, alas! sometimes appears when there is no inflammation:—Should we not bleed until this disappears? Or, is this all nonsense with which medical men have been deluding themselves and deceiving their patients? The following remarks of Magendie will serve to throw some light upon this subject:

"The yellowish stratum which accidentally solidifies at the upper part of the coagulum, consists of fibrin separated from the globules, and a physical agency perfectly independent of inflammation, namely, specific gravity, is the cause of this abnormal super-position of the fibrin. This buff, which is only an occasional appearance in human blood, occurs almost constantly in that of the horse, and there ordinarily forms two-thirds of the total mass of the clot."

"The practical question to which the subject of the buff leads, is, whether we can rationally deduce any consequences from its presence. It has long been the invariable habit of authors, of treatises on practical medicine, to recommend attentive examination of the blood; and their instructions are generally followed. But the manner in which the task is performed is extremely superficial, and yet,

from the information it furnishes, the necessity of a second bleeding is very often inferred. For my part, I have, for a number of years, paid no attention to this phenomenon than such as my curiosity to become acquainted with its cause has required; truth to say, I bleed my patients but little, and I do not perceive that they fare a whit worse than those of my neighbors." "But how can we draw any inference of importance from the presence of buff, when, as all the world knows, its formation depends on various circumstances that have no manner of connection with disease? Thus if the opening in the vein be too small, or its parallelism with that of the integuments imperfect, or if a globule of fat interfere with the flow of the liquid, and cause the blood to trickle away, it is certain that no buff will form. But open the same vein largely, and receive the blood into a narrow and deep vessel, and on the following day you will find the results in the two cases widely different. Now, by this simple exposition of facts, the question, in so far as regards the importance attributed to it in pathology, appears to be solved. What consequence can you attach to the appearance of a condition which extraneous agencies influence so materially. For either it constitutes a pathognomonic sign, (and if so it ought to occur in all similar cases, which is not found to be the fact,) or it is merely adventitious formation, without practical signification, and one which only deserves to be noted for form sake, far from being made the foundation of the course pursued in the treatment. But if medical men will cling to the opinion they have so long maintained, let them at least be consistent, and apply their measures of treatment to the vessel in which the blood is received; for it is this that modifies the coagulation of the blood and produces the morbid appearance so terribly dreaded; let them change its shape, and then they will have employed a much more infallible remedy for the evil they fear than blood-lettings repeated ever so frequently. But no: they bleed, because the buff is an inflammatory phenomenon; they bleed again to cause its disappearance, and, in truth, they are ordinarily successful in this respect after having let blood a certain number of times in succession, say three, four, five, six, or more. But that it should thus disappear is not in the least to be wondered at; there are two reasons why it should so happen; either the patient is worn out and exhausted by the frequent losses of

blood he has undergone, and his impoverished fluids, deprived in a great measure of their fibrin, are incapable of affording any more of that principle for separation; or if the individual be robust and plethoric, and his blood has resisted, in a measure, the means of effecting its decomposition employed with so much hardihood, all this proves is, that the last venesection was performed under conditions, such as those I have just described, as being favorable to the production of the phenomenon in question." "You see how difficult it is to eradicate the most absurd prejudices; in spite of the evidence of our experiments men continue to maintain that the buff is the source and origin of inflammations."—"And in defiance of all the information thus acquired, you would bleed in order to combat the ridiculous bugbear of pathologists, and although you are aware that it is developed under every condition of the system both in health and disease! But, you will say, must we then prohibit venesection in pleurisy, in pneumonia, &c.; and if we refuse to employ it in such cases, what treatment is to be adopted in its room? I will state to you with fidelity my convictions on this point. If bleeding be prescribed *because* the blood is buffy, I say that they who so prescribe it act in defiance of facts, and hence I utterly reject, on this score, the propriety of its employment. But if bleeding be advised, because it relieves the patient, diminishes the oppression he feels, soothes his pain; and, finally, because patients habitually recover by, or rather after the use of this remedial agent, then, empiric as I am, I admit that we are justified in having recourse to it; nevertheless, I must, at the same time, declare that I cannot conscientiously affirm, in the majority of cases, that the malady would not have gone through its periods, and reached a fortunate termination had venesection not been employed. And my doubts on this head are strengthened by the fact, that if, instead of weakening your patient, you support his physical and moral strength, and, watching the disease closely in all its phases, promote the occurrence of favorable crisis, and assist nature (by directing abstinence from solids, and the use of diluents) in overcoming the obstacles she encounters, you frequently see rapid recoveries occur, more rapid even than those witnessed as the sequent of abundant and repeated blood-letting. The methods of treatment, with which we are now acquainted, are unfit to fulfil such indications as those I have



enumerated; this I am well aware of, and, indeed, in the present state of things, I am, as I have more than once declared, persuaded that it is wiser to stand still, and do nothing, than act, as we must do so often, under the apprehension of possibly increasing the violence of the disorder. For you must remember that the treatment by blood-letting, employed in almost every case of acute disease, but especially in those I have adverted to, is one of the means of inducing these very diseases in healthy animals. Bleeding lessens the quantity of fibrin, proportionally increases that of the serum, and weakens the energy of coagulation; and you are aware that whatever interferes with the coagulability of the blood—its most important quality—manifests itself by morbid alterations in the organs, whence, in their turn, result a variety of serious general affections.'

In these remarks of the justly celebrated Magendie, we have a proof, of which there are many similar, that the growing opposition to the practice of blood-letting is not confined to the ignorant, but is adopted by the learned, observant and reflecting physician. The utilitarian and matter of fact spirit of the present age which has been slow to touch upon medical usages, is at length operating upon the profession itself, and is leading enquiring minds into an examination of the foundations of medical doctrines and practices. The practice of letting blood for the cure of diseases, when submitted to the test of close investigation, ceases to obtain the same respect as was formerly conceded to it; as it is found that there is no knowledge of the nature of morbid actions and of the *modus operandi* of this agent, to demonstrate that it can cure any disease. Still, it might be pursued for the reason mentioned by Magendie, namely, the proofs of its utility afforded by experience:—if such proofs exist. But it has been already been shown, that some of the experiences which, at first view, appear to be most remarkably in its favor, are fallacious. And, inasmuch as, the principal reputation of blood-letting as a curative means rests upon these deceptive experiences, we are led to distrust it as a remedial agent. Where it is employed for its direct morbid effects, as production of syncope and consequent muscular relaxation, a luxated bone may perhaps be more easily reduced; but we are far from recommending it even for this or other similar purposes; for skilful

manipulations, aided by other less injurious means, will enable us to dispense entirely with employment of a means so extremely costly to the animal economy.

The committee would next proceed to consider the incompatibility of blood-letting with homœopathic treatment. This is so obvious as scarcely to require remark. Because an agent capable of producing such violent derangement both immediate and persistent, must interfere with the operation of the properly adapted homœopathic remedy.

### DOSES OF MEDICINE,

BY P. P. WELLS, M. D., BROOKLYN, N. Y.

*Read before the American Institute of Homœopathy, June, 1848.*

THE word Homœopathy as now commonly used, may be regarded as expressing three general ideas, more or less distinct and complete. It is made to express the idea of a system of medicine, rather than its more legitimate and restricted one of a simple law, and this system is understood to contain new and peculiar views of diseases themselves, of the law by which alone they are cured, and the best means to be employed in their cure.—These are the three general ideas peculiar to the system of Homœopathia, and which are presented more or less distinctly to the intelligent mind when the word is used. Their discovery and development were not in the order in which they stand in the above enumeration, but rather, first the law of cure, then the means, and afterwards the true philosophy of disease. The first of these, the law, was recognized at the onset, as a law, and, as such, not to admit of improvement or amendment, more than any other law of nature, as that of gravitation for example. It was complete in itself—perfect—such it remains to day and will ever remain, and as such it is presented to the confidence of this body and the world. Not so with the other two ideas. They are not yet perfected. Much that is absolutely true is known which belongs to each, but there is much yet to be discovered. And it is believed that all the improvement which Homœopathy admits of, is to be realized in their province; *i. e.* in a better understanding of the laws of disease, and a better knowledge of the means of cure. We have to do in this report only with the latter. Indeed we are restricted within much more narrow

er limits than extent of this general idea, *viz* : to the *quantitative* relations of that idea—to the *dose*. And we may begin by alledging of this, as we have of the idea of means in general, that much is known which is positively true, and which has been established by an extent of experiment and observation adequate to prove the truth or falsehood of any idea. If this be so, then in any investigations or experiments for the advancement of knowledge of this important branch of our science, we should keep the *truth already known* constantly before our minds and carry our investigations in the direction it leads, being guided by its light. It is confidently believed that in this way, and this only, can any real progress be made. But he who attempts investigations otherwise, would resemble the astronomer who would make discoveries, discarding the laws of gravitation and refraction. If this course had been pursued in past time, we should indeed have had less controversy on this subject, but we should have had more truth. Whatever may be the history of other questions, it is believed *controversy* has done little to advance knowledge on this. It has been our misfortune, on this subject, to have much controversy and little investigation. Men have been more willing to *debate* than investigate, and are so still.—It is easier. A certain amount of ignorant assurance and presumption may make a capital disputant, and of these we never lack a supply, but it requires other, and higher, and unfortunately, rarer qualities to pursue truth to its discovery. Because we have had so much debate and so little inquiry, the increase of knowledge of the matter of doses has, since the first discovery of Hahneman been so small ; so much less than we should supposed it would have been when we remember its importance, and the minds it has engaged. If we wish to ascertain what is known in regard to doses, we may do well to start with Hahneman where he started, at which point positively nothing was known.—What did he establish as truth in this matter ? First, that such doses of drugs as were given in the allopathic treatment of disease were mischievous and often dangerous ; and this just in the ratio as the effects of the drugs are like the symptoms of the disease. It would be better than it is with both physicians and the sick if this truth were better observed. In attempting to adapt his practice to the requirements of this truth, Hahneman

discovered a second, and not less important fact, *viz* : that the power of drugs to affect the living organism was not diminished in the direct ratio of their diminished quantity, when their attenuation was attempted by diffusing them through different media, and this led him to the discovery of a third truth ; that a new development of power was realized by the operation of the process by which he attempted to attenuate his drugs. And in this he found a new and valuable addition to the means before possessed of combatting disease. By it he obtained many a victory, when without it, he himself would have been conquered.

I have no hesitation in declaring the above to be truths—undeniable truths ; and I have as little hesitation in believing if advancement in knowledge of doses, beyond present attainment is ever realized, it will be by following out these truths, and by investigations guided and governed by their light. Indeed, I believe myself fully warranted in going further, and declaring that the only improvement in the matter of doses which has really been made by any or all who have come after Hahneman, has been made in this very way. It was thus the great and lamented Gross, achieved for himself immortality in the discovery and establishment of the energy of the higher potencies of drugs, developed H. Jenichen under his direction. While, by the other course, by forgetting the truths ascertained and established, and yielding to imagination or whim, endless debate and confusion have resulted, and nothing else. Nothing else should have been expected. It has been as though two or three thousand years were not enough to demonstrate that advancement of truth in Medicine, was not to be in the fields of fancy, but in those of fact. The Allopathic school has had abundant experience in this mistaking imagination for fact, enough to answer both for them and us, if we are wise as we ought to be. This has been its bane, and alone explains why it is that after so many years, it is found to have made so little progress in the art of healing.

The idea of doses as present to the mind of the practitioner when by the side of the sick is made up of two questions. 1st. How much shall be given ? 2nd. How often ? Quantity and repetition. In regard to the first, there has been and is much difference of opinion and practice. A difference which is not to be discussed in this report. But it may



not be amiss to make a remark or two upon it.

1st. The difference is believed to be greater than the nature of the subject makes necessary. It has not always been the result of mere difference in the degree of knowledge possessed by individuals. Prejudice, previous bias, circumstances, have all contributed to produce it. Sometimes the peculiar structure of individual mind is a sufficient reason for the opinions entertained on this as on other subjects. If in the nature of the question, there is greater difficulty in reaching the true answer, than is found in connexion with most others, there is in it no necessary impossibility. This should be constantly remembered. The truth can be found here just as it is found anywhere else. Not by pre-judging the case—not by attempting to foist our crude opinions or dogmata into the high position of authority, but by careful and patient observation and experiment. If the difficulty be great, so then is the duty imposed to overcome it. And this duty, great by difficulty, and the importance of the subject, belongs in no small degree to this Institute. It cannot be evaded. It can and ought to be discharged. It is not a question to which indifference at all belongs. When the right remedy is found it is not an indifferent thing whether much or little be given a patient. Indifference in this is only indifference to the patient's welfare. I am confident I have seen much suffering result from this indifference, and in more than once instance loss of life, and to me it can never afterward be a matter of indifference. If, in any degree, a similar interest in the question can be excited in the minds of the members of the Institute, the object had in view in writing this report will be gained. The law of the quantity of doses can be attained by care, diligence, perseverance, and the observance of truths already known. Without these, however careful, diligent, or persevering, we shall only grope in the dark, and our errors will be to future generations, what those of the past are to us, their amusement or their astonishment.

The 2d Question, the repetition of doses, is already settled by law, promulgated by Hahnemann. Never repeat a dose or change a remedy, while that given is still acting for the good of the patient. To this may be added, for the benefit of beginners in practice one other rule, and the law is perfect. In case of doubt whether the dose given be still acting, do nothing.

## THE ANNALIST.

A semi-monthly journal is published in this city, entitled "*The Annalist. A record of practical medicine in the city of New York.*" Edited by William C. Roberts, M. D. The above periodical with much zeal and moderate ability advocates the Allopathic mode of medical practice. At the period of its first appearance we were informed of its object, and by whose means it was to be sustained; but as we had no interest in the individual popularity which we had been told it was intended to promote, we did not regard it our duty to say anything about it, for it is our rule to mind our own business. But from time to time the Annalist was guilty of unfairness, and bitterness towards homœopathy and her practitioners; these we endured for months without a word; but finally we indulged ourself in a few remarks on some of its articles; and contrary to our expectations we received the respects of the Editor in nearly two pages in the very next number. He told us in substance that that was the first and the last, and in his own peculiar way of editorial politeness, intimated that our Journal need not be sent to him any more. Of course we inferred that the Annalist was done with us, and Homœopathy, and we concluded to "bury the hatchet" and do as we had been accustomed to do for years, make our very best bow to the Editor whenever we happened to meet, and good naturally agree to differ, and each pursue the even tenor of his way unmolested by the other. But it seems this cannot be,—the temper of the Annalist is up—the Editor is in a bad humor, and must necessarily be in an unhappy state of mind, for in the No. of his Journal just received (June 15th) he says, some very severe things;—some very foolish things;—some very false things;—some very inconsistent things, which cannot be approved by the wise and prudent of his own school. We are truly thankful that the Editor of the Annalist never embraced Homœopathy, for if he had done so, he would have given us a world of trouble, much more than we have had from some restless, proud, and vain spirits already in our school. But he has made up his mind never to become a homœopathist, and in this he has our full confidence. His mind is so constituted that we have no fear of any such disaster to Homœopathy.

The occasion which has put the Editor of the Annalist so much out of humor is: The



Trustees of the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary Association saw fit to publish the following, viz :

"The trustees of the 'New York Homœopathic Dispensary Association' owe it to the cause of humanity to publish the following comparative result of two opposite medical treatments, adopted in our Orphan Institutions. They think it more incumbent upon them to discharge this duty, as, not being physicians, they are free from all abstract professional preferences, and can have no other interest in the success of this or that system of medicine, than what is warranted by the amount of relief afforded to their suffering fellow creatures.

"Official returns from the Orphan Institutions, including the first 7 years of the Protestant Half-Orphan Asylum, which has been 12 years in existence.

"St. Patrick's Asylum—Number of years, 5; number of children, 1254; number of deaths, 20; ratio of deaths, 1 in 62. Catholic Half-Orphan Asylum—Number of years, 6; number of children, 718; number of deaths, 19; ratio of deaths, 1 in 37. Orphan Asylum—Number of years, 5; number of children, 714; number of deaths, 12; ratio of deaths, 1 in 59. Leake and Wait's House—Number of years, 4; number of children, 360; number of deaths, 7; ratio of deaths, 1 in 51; For colored children—Number of years, 11; number of children, 1107; number of deaths, 66; ratio of deaths, 1 in 16. Protestant Half-Orphan Asylum—Number of years, 7; number of children, 858; number of deaths, 22; ratio of deaths, 1 in 39. Total number of children, 5,001; deaths, 146; average ratio, 1 in 34, under Allopathic treatment. Protestant Half-Orphan Asylum, under Homœopathic treatment for the last five years—Number of children, 864; number of deaths, 6; average ratio, 1 in 144. The comparative general result is thus 144 to 34, or more than 4 to 1 in favor of Homœopathic treatment. By order of the Trustees, May 2, 1848. Homœopathic Dispensary, 57 Bond Street.

WM. K. LOTHROP, Sec.

It is well known in this city that the Board of Trustees of the above Dispensary is composed of some of the most learned, wealthy, and influential of our citizens. These, finding the above statistics of our Orphan Asylums in print, made up mostly from the published annual reports of these institutions, by a gentleman well known for accuracy in such matters, and being satisfied of their truth; the Trustees saw no reason why such information should be withheld from the public. They put it forth without comment, and to avoid the very thing which the Editor of the *Annalist* so much desires to know, they did it

without the voice of the medical officers of that Institution; for the law of that association gives no voice to the Physicians on that or any other subject connected with the business of the Trustees.

The above astounding announcement has caused a good deal of excitement in the Allopathic School in this city; and one interested, has, in the above number of the *Annalist*, made an attempt at an explanation in which we notice a very grave charge; that the managers of the Asylum in question have not accounted for "two hundred and odd" children, and it is more than insinuated that they have been sacrificed on the altar of homœopathy, and the fact most carefully concealed by the managers. This is going a little too fast, and too far. It is not our purpose to defend the above report; we have no doubt of its truth, and in due time it will be demonstrated; and we leave the matter in the hands of one who knows all about it, and if we mistake not the "esteemed correspondent" of the *Annalist* will be proved unqualified for the work he has undertaken. The *Annalist* terms the above notice "Lay-puffery of Homœopathy" and under that head writes nearly four pages, embracing a variety of subjects, very much mingled; the most prominent of which is, a severe lecturing the Trustees of the Homœopathic Dispensary, for doing what they had a right to do, about which there can be no dispute except with the Editor of the *Annalist* and his "esteemed correspondent." The *Annalist* proposes to publish the failures of Homœopathy to cure diseases: to this we do not object, but if the examples he gives are to be the models for his brethren to follow in their reports to him of the failure of homœopathic practice; we shall turn him and them over to the laity without a word of comment; to secure all the faith they may, without any interference on our part. We do, however most sincerely request of the Editor and his correspondents, that should they report any of our cases, they will so far oblige us, as to place our name in connection with the cases, and we very much doubt if any real practitioner of homœopathy in this city would hesitate to make the same request. If such reports are attempted, only let them be true, and we will cheerfully aid in the work. What does the *Annalist* mean by "and in strict justice, of its successes as well." Is this an invitation to practitioners of homœopathy to furnish that Journal with well authenticated



cases of cure? If this is the meaning he shall be gratified. This point should have been plainer; but it seems to us it can only refer to homœopaths; for if it refer to Allopaths it is an absurdity. Finally Mr. Anna-list, your insinuations about the doubtful integrity of the members of our school is unworthy of an honorable mind. Most of us in this city happen to be as well, and perhaps a little better known than yourself and others who make such a charge; and however much you despise lay opinions, and lay interference, and lay readers of medical journals, you will yet learn that to charge a class of men with dishonesty of purpose, who for education, skill, and moral worth, are equal to their fellows,—is not wise.

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Carlisle, April 19, 1818.

DEAR SIR:—

Very little has been said of late about the high potencies, and in order that this subject may remain before our medical friends, I shall communicate to you something relating to it. It is now two years since I used the high potencies exclusively, and enjoying quite an extensive practice, I have had a fair opportunity to test Joehrichen's preparations, and I am quite confident that the unbelievers have nothing else to do, than to try, in order to become convinced that the high-potencies are preferable to the lower ones. I have never been obliged to go down to the lower potencies to cure my patient, and even in cases not admitting a cure on account of their nature, I have seen a greater relief produced by exhibiting the high potencies even dissolved in some ounces of water than from giving often and repeated doses of low preparations of the same remedy. I found them equally useful as well in the most acute as in chronic diseases. The truth of these statements, not only made by myself, but by abler, older, and more experienced physicians than I am, can only be refuted by careful experiments, showing that in a stated case the remedy most homœopathically indicated has been given in the high potency, that after waiting for a proper period there was no improvement, but that such improvement was experienced after the same remedy was exhibited in a low potency: the contrary of which has been proved satisfactory, and I myself had ample opportunity to experience it: so I do not wish to be under-

stood that there can be no cures performed by low potencies, even tinctures; but they will not be performed with such certainty, and in some instances, not at all, the remedy producing only an increase of disease by developing its own symptoms too powerful. I consider the high potencies a great improvement in homœopathy, and far from wishing to press my own opinion upon others, it is only my wish to persuade them to try for themselves, in order that in the end we may arrive at a unanimity as regards potencies. And now I shall give you a few cases.

A lady of 28 had one child 5 years ago, since then repeatedly pregnant, always had abortion before the 4th month. Had had an abortion in November, 1847, was treated by an allopathic physician; hæmorrhage after abortion continued for 7 weeks, all the ordinary remedies had failed. The discharge was of a bright colour, thin, but very profuse, no strength, she could scarcely set up, no appetite, very little sleep, countenance pale. One dose of Sabina, 400, cured her completely, and for the successive month her menstruation has been regular.

2. Judge K. complained of Dyplopia. With his right eye he could see very well, but looking at an object with both eyes there were two objects clearly seen, the one above the other; there was a twitching sensation in the optic nerve of the left eye.—Hyosciamus, 300, removed these symptoms in a few days completely. The same gentleman was attacked three months afterwards with a sensation of numbness in his left side, the left side of his tongue was feeling lame, and he spoke with difficulty, his left arm could not be well raised, his left leg gave him much trouble as he could not walk, and stumbled often. Hyosciamus, 300, in a single dose, again removed all these symptoms in 3 days.

3. A young lady of 19, otherwise quite well, was attacked during her normal menstruation with violent diarrhœa and vomiting, nothing had been done for it for many months as she did not wish to have any advice on the subject, but it becoming too violent she sent for some medicine, Ammonium Muriaticum 400, soon relieved her, and did so whenever these symptoms made their appearance.—(Arn. m. is a specific for diarrhœa and vomiting during menstruation; the symptoms has been omitted in the new edition of Jahr.)

4. A lady of 23 had moved in a newly painted house, the room she occupied was

not painted, but the lower story, and only the vapour of the painting came to her apartment; she was taken at night with a colic like pain in the abdomen, periodically worse diarrhœa, stools watery, with violent pain in the small of her back. Nux vom. 1000 relieved her immediately.

5. Miss G., 19 years old, complains of violent pains in the left side of her face, comes on in paroxysms, often changes from ear to cheek or teeth—worse from warm things taken in the mouth—she is chilly with the pains. Puls. 400, one dose removed all the pains.

6. An old lady had had a sore place on her left cheek with a scab on for years; finally, the scab fell off, a cancer-like ulcer spread very fast. After 6 months external application had been made, I was consulted. The pain in the cancer was burning and intense, —no night's rest—the discharge was watery, and had excoriated all the parts coming in contact with it. Gave her one dose of Arsenic, 2000, and dissolved a few globules of the same preparation in rain water, and applied it to the cancer. In two days she was much weaker, but no pain and no discharge. She has since become tolerably strong, and her cheek is healed.

Most respectfully yours,

Dr. LIPPE.

To Dr. Kirby.

#### BRERA ON HOMŒOPATHY.

"The following remarks upon Homœopathy by Professor Brera, undoubtedly one of the most distinguished authorities in the Allopathic school, may not be uninteresting to our readers; they are extracted from an article by the learned and venerable professor in the *Antologia medicale*, of which he is editor, and were penned in the year 1834, since which time Homœopathy has made rapid and immense strides, not only in his own country (Italy), but also all over the world, and has gained a large number of adherents among medical men, to which the 500 practitioners spoken of by the author are but as a fraction.

After noticing the constant progress of the new doctrine which reckons "not less than five hundred physicians, who openly and courageously practise it exclusively," he goes on to observe "Homœopathy though it may appear vain to some, singular to others, and extravagant to the greater number, does actu-

ally reign in the scientific just like any other school; for it has its chairs, its books, its journals, its hospitals, its cliniques, its professors who teach, and its public who listen. It is consequently established as well as any other system, and its present position has already assigned it a place in the history of medicine. Such being the case, it can no longer be treated with contempt: it merits that calm examination, that severity of judgment, which have been applied to all systems of medicine successively, proofs of which we have in our own days had with respect to the systems of Bœrhave, of Cullen, of Brown, of Rasori, of Broussais, &c., and so much the more reason have we to treat it in this way, for, as we must in truth allow, the Homœopaths have their principle, on which they act and prescribe, and by which they only administer a substance of such a quality, and in such a quantity, that no danger can thereby accrue to their patients directly. If Homœopathy announces facts and theories, beyond the sphere of our present knowledge, there is no reason for despising it, and rejecting it as an absolute illusion. That physician is greatly mistaken who imagines that he cannot learn to-morrow what he is ignorant of to-day! Is not the insufficiency and incertitude of medicine a constant subject of reproach? And do not the sagest and profoundest practical physicians *honestly* mistrust the solidity of their knowledge? And without doubt it is to conviction of this sort, that we must attribute the resolution taken by a considerable number of celebrated physicians, more especially amongst our transalpine brethren, to conquer the repugnance naturally felt at abandoning principles formerly adopted, in order to devote themselves to an impartial examination of new ones; and, if necessary, to profess such as might be of use to suffering humanity, even if by so doing they should abjure their former medical faith! Let us not forget the animated controversies that have always ensued before the admission of the greatest discoveries. We need only instance the circulation of the blood in the 17th century, the employment of bark and of inoculation in the 18th, as well as the discoveries of Galileo, of Newton, of Descartes, &c." "With respect to the dose apparently so minute, administered by Homœopaths, there is not a physician of any practice or experience, who ought to reject it as absolutely erroneous and inefficient in every case. The author of this



paper had from his own experience in the year 1797, demonstrated that salivation excited by a mercurial preparation, was arrested by the administration of a smaller dose of another mercurial preparation. He has cured several intermittent fevers of a very severe nature with mere atoms of *arseniate of potash*. He has shown that *belladonna*, which produces in the healthy individual phenomena similar to those of Hydrophobia, is a powerful remedy against this terrible disease. The same with respect to *datura stramonium* and *hyosciamus*. He has observed angina pectoris relieved in an instant by a few drops of *stramonium*, which is itself capable of producing symptoms of cardiac affection, accompanied with dyspnoea. A hysterical gastrodynia which had for two years resisted antiphlogistics, sedatives, revulsives, and latterly *oxide of bismuth*, in ordinary doses, yielded as if by magic to small doses of *oxide of bismuth*. Many similar facts might be adduced from his long practice. In the case cited, it was observation and experience which led him to such results; but he was guided to the principle on which they were treated by the following circumstances:—1st. By the consideration of a passage in Hippocrates pointed out to him by the celebrated Blumenbach, when he attended his course of lectures at Gottingen, '*diseases are sometimes cured by remedies capable of producing an analagous affection*;' 2nd. By the action of the contagious viruses, more particularly those of variola and vaccinia, which attenuated to an almost immaterial state, and thereafter inoculated, develop after a certain space of time, such a powerful action that a process is lighted up in the organism by which the contagious atoms introduced are multiplied a million fold. 3rd. By a reflection on the ideas concerning the pathologico-therapeutical vicissitudes of the complex organism, first imbibed by the author at the school of Reil, at Halle, and afterwards enumerated by himself in his *Practical Medical Annotations*, anno 1796-98."

"We should always bear in mind that the more fine and subtle matters are, the greater are the effects they produce on living organisms. Light, heat, electricity, magnetism, are familiar examples of this. The phenomena, which we every instant observe whilst studying nature, sufficiently convince us of the incomparable power of matter subtilised to an almost inconceivable extent. We need merely allude to the well known experiments

of Spallanzani, in reference to the fecundation of frog's spawn. The phenomena of sympathy and antipathy are apparently referrible to modifications of the most active and rapid character, excited in our senses by causes of a material nature certainly imperceptible, and doubtless subtilised to a greater degree than any Homœopathic remedy.—And how many chemical reagents are there not, which do not act unless carried to an excessive of dilution by the addition of immense quantities of fluid? And do we not every day see the great reproductive power of atoms in the development and growth of vegetables?"

### HOMŒOPATHY IN EDINBURGH.

At the time when there was the greatest apprehension of the appearance of the Cholera, a meeting of the Committee of the Homœopathic Dispensary was held, at which it was resolved to appoint a deputation of that body to wait upon the Lord Provost and offer the services of the medical officers of the institution to undertake any charge that might be committed to them, in case of the city being divided into districts, and hospitals instituted. The conference accordingly took place between some of the most influential members of the Committee and the Lord Provost and some members of the Town Council. It was stated by the latter that no decision had yet been arrived at respecting the steps to be taken if the Cholera appeared, but the Lord Provost expressed his willingness to put himself again in communication with the body representing the Homœopathists of Edinburgh before any arrangement of the nature alluded to was made.

### LEEDS HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

The report of this institution for the year ending November 1847, shows its increasing popularity. The number of patients treated in 1845—6, was 444, while in 1836—7, there were 931 patients. The financial statement shows a balance of near £100 in the Treasurers hands. The physician is Dr. Irvine.

## CASES TREATED WITH HIGH POTENCIES.

BY DR. STAPF.

Dr. Stapf furnishes some more very good cases illustrative of the action of the high dilutions. Here is an eye case:—

19.—Schelling, eighteen years old, a tradesman's apprentice, of delicate constitution, otherwise not unhealthy looking, was, in his fifth year, attacked by natural small-pox, of which his scarred face still bears evidence. At that early period, as a sequela of the small-pox, an affection of the eye commenced, which not only did not get better up till his 18th year, but grew sensibly worse. When first I saw him, on the 1st of June, and minutely examined the eye, I found the following state:—The right eye is alone affected. The conjunctiva is bright red, inflamed; the cornea very dim, of a dirty dusty appearance, as if it were covered by a membrane; the vision very imperfect; he sees every thing indistinctly, as if through a thick cloud; the eyelids are very much injected, with burning pains, secreting a viscid fluid, whereby they are often closed up at night. A very marked symptom is an extremely copious flux of tears, of such an acrid nature, that they corrode the surrounding skin. This lachrymal flux is always present, but is greatest in damp weather. The disease had now been present for thirteen years, without the slightest amelioration from all the Allopathic means used to combat it. On the 2nd June I gave *Sulph.* (400) 2 gls. In eight days the eye was much improved; the redness of the conjunctiva was much diminished; the dimness of the cornea less observable; the disagreeable burning pains much less; the lachrymation less, and not so acrid or corrosive; the vision more free, and clearer. I allowed the sulphur to continue its action, and had the pleasure to find the patient improve from week to week, so that on the 10th of August all trace of this chronic ophthalmia was gone, except some lachrymation which still remained, and for which I gave, on the 17th of August, *Euphrasia* (200) 2 gls. After this the lachrymation completely ceased. He got afterwards a globule of *Sulph.*, (400) and is now in possession of perfect health, the eye being quite free from all disease, and the vision quite normal.

Here is a still more striking case:—

20.—F. P., a robust person of thirty-six

years of age, who had suffered much from gonorrhœa, and had undergone all sorts of treatment for that disease, whilst suffering from another gonorrhœa, was attacked by extremely severe strangury on the 15th August, probably in consequence of a chill. He had used tepid baths and copious draughts of milk to combat the great pain in the neck of the bladder, and the constant urinary tenesmus, during which the urine only came away by drops, with the most agonizing burning pain in the urethra. But as towards evening the pains still increased, and the urinary tenesmus became still more distressing, and the discharge of urine at length ceased, he sent for two celebrated Allopathic medical men, who sought to relieve him by fomentations, embrocations, and the like, but in vain. They afterwards attempted to empty the bladder by introducing the catheter, but this they could not succeed in effecting, and their attempts only irritated the parts, and rendered the patient's condition worse. They at last declared, that, to save his life, an operation was indispensable. Frightened by this decision, and dreading such an operation, the patient resolved to send for me at six o'clock in the morning of August 16th. On approaching his residence, I heard his groans and lamentations in the street. On examining him more particularly, I found the following state:—Almost total suppression of the flow of urine, with constant exquisitely painful calls to urinate; if even a few drops are discharged, it is only with the most violent burning pains in the urethra, especially towards its orifice, where there is always pain as of excoriation; it is at the same time inflamed and swollen. The urine discharged is opaque and mucous. In the vesical region there are constant violent burning pains, and there is a perceptible swelling, painful to the slightest touch. The gonorrhœal discharge, which was lately present, has now ceased. Pulse full and hard. He is extremely restless and despairing. In this dangerous affection I was at first undetermined whether to precede the true Homœopathic remedy, *Canthar.*, by a few doses of *Aconite*, or to give the former at once. I at length resolved to give the *Cantharis* without delay. For this purpose I dissolved *Canth.*, (200) 2 gls. in half a wineglassful of water, and ordered a spoonful of this to be given every hour; besides which he was to take nothing but milk or gruel. This was at 7 A. M. When I saw him again at noon, I found the whole scene



changed most agreeably. A few hours after taking the first spoonful of the solution, the pains and straining had much diminished, some urine had been passed without the previous pains, and the patient felt relieved. Still his condition was even now bad enough. I now ordered a spoonful of the solution to be given only every two hours, and when I paid my evening visit I found that he had obtained a profuse and tolerably easy passage of urine. The pains, as well of the bladder as of the urethra, were much diminished; the patient, who, an hour or two ago, had been in a state of despair, was now quiet and cheerful. I now ordered the medicine to be discontinued, and enjoined quiet alone. When I visited my patient in the morning, I found him in high spirits; he had slept well several hours during the night, had passed a good deal of urine with very little pain, and was otherwise well. The painful tension in the vesical region was quite gone; the urine discharged was pretty clear. The recovery now went on rapidly, so that on the 18th of August he was quite free from all his symptoms, and paid me a visit at my own house. I found some gonorrhœal discharge had returned, which, however, ceased in a few days, after a dose of *Cannabis*, (200.)

The next is a case of chronic gastric affection of a kind very frequently met with, and generally remarkable for its intractable character:

21.—Schlehhahn, a farmer, sixty-three years old, came to me for advice in July, 1844, having suffered for upwards of a year from the following symptoms:—After taking the smallest quantity of food or drink, often before it has reached his stomach, he is attacked by severe choking feeling, when he vomits what he has swallowed, and afterwards viscid mucus and bile. At other times, also, he is subject to violent eructations of some bitter fluid, followed by mucus and bile. He has in the region of the stomach a violent burning pain, which is sometimes so violent that he is forced to bend double, at the same time indescribable anxiety and restlessness; almost constant thirst. The abdomen is somewhat swollen; the hepatic region not particularly so. Bowels moved once in twenty-four hours, sometimes not so often; evacuations hard. About every other day he has a transient febrile rigor, even in hot weather, followed by heat and perspiration, with great faintness and

nausea. About every other night he has very restless sleep, with anxiety, dreams, and perspiration. He was formerly robust and stoutly made, but is now weak, emaciated, and pale; disposition despairing, anxious, depressed. No remedy corresponded so well with these symptoms as *Arsenic*, of which I gave him two globules of the 400th immediately, on the tongue. No essential change had to be made in his diet and regimen. In four weeks the patient came again to me in his appearance so altered for the better, that I scarcely recognized him. He told me, with joy, that a few days after he had taken the remedy his state grew perceptibly better; the disagreeable burning in the stomach had diminished, and, by and by, completely ceased. The troublesome nausea and choking sensation had likewise diminished, so that he could now eat and drink without vomiting, although during the first fortnight the vomiting was occasionally present, though in a much less degree; but now he was quite free from it, as also from the periodical rigor. He felt much stronger; his spirits were cheerful; he was full of hope: his appearance, if not blooming, was at least well enough. In order to eradicate the remainder of this chronic disease, I gave him now (four weeks after the first dose) a second dose of the same remedy, but this time of the 800th dilution, after which, as I had an opportunity of observing for several months, he enjoyed perfect health.

To be Continued.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND AND NEWCASTLE HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

The report for the year ending December 1847, shows us a total of 688 patients treated during the year. The physician of this Dispensary is Dr. Hayle. As in the Leeds Dispensary, two classes of patients are received, ordinary patients who are treated gratuitously, and extraordinary patients who pay a small monthly contribution. Without discussing at present the propriety of having a paying class of patients attached to dispensaries, we would recommend all who adopt such a plan to have the financial concerns managed entirely by a committee, who should draw up periodically a statement of the affairs of the dispensary, in order to prevent the imputation that the physician derives any remuneration from a nominally charitable institution. We are glad to observe that this has been done by both Dr. Hayle and Dr. Irvine.

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY," may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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NO. 4.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1848.

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THE MICHIGAN INSTITUTE OF  
HOMŒOPATHY.

A society with the above title has been organized in Michigan. It is composed of most of the Physicians of the State. We mean by this, those of the Homœopathic school; for only such are true Physicians.

The proceedings of the first meeting have just been received. The principles in which the members unanimously concurred are as follows, *viz*: "*First*, In the universality of the therapeutic law, '*similia similibus curantur*.' "*Secondly*, In the superior efficacy and safety of pure Homœopathic practice, in contradistinction to every other system or combination of systems. "*Thirdly*, In the greater certainty and curative effects of pure, unmixed, and uncombined medicines; and that the processes of trituration, dilution and succussion, are important means of developing the inherent therapeutic power of the crude drug."

These principles agree with those promulgated by the Homœopathic Society of New York, at its organization in November, 1846.

They are the following, *viz*:

1st. The principle "*similia similibus curantur*," is the true law of healing.

2nd. The processes of dilution, trituration and succussion, are important means of developing the inherent therapeutic power of the crude drug.

3d. Homœopathic treatment in dynamic diseases is more safe and efficient than bleeding, blistering, vomiting, purging, and all antipathic and revulsive measures.

The above is not to be understood as condemning the appropriate use of surgery and chemistry, or the removal of foreign bodies, and other mechanical causes of obstruction or irritation, and the neutralization and removal of poisons. Many cases of poisoning require, as a primary step, the use of mechanical or chemical means, and the administration of large doses. The disease proper which remains after the removal of the exciting cause, is to be treated Homœopathically. Among the substances which we are justified in thus removing, we do not include vitiated secretions, whose imaginary noxious qualities have led to so great an abuse of Cathartics."

These are the principles which Hahnemann promulgated, and they are received by all true Physicians

We are not of those who continue to believe the healing art must for ever be governed by doubtful principles; for, principles have been discovered, the truth of which need not, at the present period, be doubted. Such have been put forth by the Michigan Institute, and the "Homœopathic Society of New York." They are the tests by which the true physician may be known. Any practical deviation from them, is a departure from the true art of healing, and unavoidably injurious to hu-

man health and life. For, as we have said on other occasions, and repeat it here, we are not, in this regard, dealing with conventional rules which may be changed, but with nature's laws which change not.

The members of the Michigan Institute seem to be imbued with a proper spirit of zeal and intelligence, which cannot but result in great good to the profession. There is an able address appended to their proceedings, which develops a high order of ability in the writer of it. It would be remarkable if an Allopathist can be so mentally blind as not to perceive that there is reason for faith in Homœopathia, after reading it.

#### ADDRESS OF JACOB JEANES, M. D.,

*Delivered before the American Institute of Homœopathy, at its 5th Anniversary Meeting, held at New York, June 14th 1848.*

We have the pleasure of again meeting together. We have the gratification of hearing of the advances which true medical science is making in many sections of our country. Well may we exchange congratulations, for the advancement of medicine is a benefit to the human race.

To accelerate such advance, this Institute was established; and it has already created an organization which has commenced its operations. Every successive year has seen it advancing in power and influence, so that, the hope is becoming certainty that it will accomplish the purpose of its formation. The great mass of its members are sincerely and deeply interested in the progress of improvement in medical science, and many are willing to exert themselves to the utmost of their powers for the attainment of this grand object.

In order to advance we must know what will be a forward movement, for, change of position may be retrogression. In order to improve, we must undertake what is defective and what will constitute improvement. To attain to this knowledge we must study our present position and observe in what directions our exertions can prove most effective and useful; and also ascertain both the obstacles which obstruct our progress and the means of surmounting them.

We are, therefore, compelled to survey the present state of medicine, in order, that we

may know whether it is defective and requires any improvement or perfect and on that account, incapable of amendment. In doing this, if we extend our views over the whole earth, we find, that medicine exists at the present moment in all its stages, from that which belongs to the most perfect barbarism to that which it has attained in the most civilised countries; and we are thus enabled to compare medicine as it exists among barbarians with the advanced science of the highest civilization without travelling back to remote antiquity.

To minutely examine every object which may appear before us is unnecessary to our present purpose for which the bolder outlines are amply sufficient. For, however instructive, it would be too tedious on this occasion to examine closely the practices of barbarian and ignorant nations in the treatment of disease. It is true, that we might trace many of the methods of medical practice which are in great esteem in civilised communities to barbarian origin; whether to the honor of the latter or the disgrace of the former, time will determine. It is also too true, that we might point to other resemblances between the medicine of barbarous and civilized communities which would lead us to doubt whether the medical science of the latter had yet emerged from barbarism. For instance, we may see the savage tenants of our western prairies priding themselves on their being "great medicines" when they have arsenic and corrosive sublimate in their medicine bags; at the same time that their civilised brethren feel an equal self complacency in the conviction that they are great physicians because they are in possession of certain poisons which can violently disorder particular parts of the system.

But, it is upon medicine as it now exists in civilised communities that we have to make our observations. And, herè, what a chaotic and incongruous medley of doctrines and practises is presented to mental vision?—Schools, which claim to be orthodox, in conflict with each other and often divided in themselves.—Schools which do not claim for their doctrines an origin so far back as the time of the sage of Cos, but which pronounce themselves to be better than the schools which boast of the possession of the accumulated knowledge of twenty centuries. And, wherever the laws do not prevent it, we find the igno-



rant nostrum-vender in successful competition with the learned practitioner whose diploma pronounces him to be fully imbued with medical knowledge.

Truly! the boldest outlines in a view of the present state of medical science are sufficient to show, that it is deplorably defective. The observation of the differences and contradictions in theory and practice must convince us that this is only too true. But dismissing further remark on this point, as it would be likely to lead us too much into detail, let us direct our attention to another of equal prominence. This is, the fact, that the unlettered quack and the ignorant venders of panaceas and similar nostrums are so often the successful rivals of the educated physician. This one, well known and stubborn fact, loudly proclaims the present imperfection of medicine as it is cultivated in our schools. It shows, clearly, that the medical science of the schools has not yet sufficiently demonstrated its superiority to the medicine of chance and ignorance.

As educated physicians we feel the greatest mortification in these acknowledgments. But oh! how deep has been our humiliation when we have seen professors in our medical schools volunteering their praises of quack nostrums of the constituents of which they were profoundly ignorant? Imperfect as it is, the science of the schools deserved not this degradation, of being thus acknowledged as inferior to a worse than barbarian practice. Well, indeed, might medical science, expiring under the blows of her favored sons, exclaim with the dying Cæsar, "et tu Brute."

But while these general views present cultivated medicine in such an unfavorable aspect; closer views and more minute investigation serve to combine us than its accumulated information and extensive resources it is in reality vastly superior to the medicine of ignorance and quackery. There is truth in medicine. And, it is a science capable of cultivation and immense improvement. If these are properly extended, the learned physician will prove himself to be so far superior to the ignorant pretender, that the latter will be unable to succeed wherever the former is to be found; and the graduate of the medical schools need never want the aid of the legislator to guard him against the competition of the quack. Sound public opinion based upon observation and experience of their compar-

ative merits will secure him from this degradation.

If, as has just been asserted, medical science is capable of cultivation and great improvement, it will be proper to enquire, what are those obstacles which have thwarted its advance for two thousand years. During this time, in spite of the accumulation of many valuable observations, its advancement has certainly not been what might have been expected.

But, it may be asked, on what grounds, since medical science has hitherto made such little progress, can we hope, now, for any more rapid advancement? The answer to this is, that the improvements and discoveries in the collateral sciences and the discovery of the homœopathic law and of the operation of highly attenuated medicines has opened a way to a new, rich and inexhaustible field of medical knowledge. We may therefore not only hope for, but we may also reasonably calculate upon continued advances in our science, though we must acknowledge the existence of obstacles which prevent that rapidity of improvement which is desirable both for the advantage of science itself and for the welfare of humanity. To the most prominent of these we will now direct our attention; as its exposure will insure its overthrow.

This is Superstition. Its follies and its cruelties in medicine have inflicted the most severe injuries on the human race. And, it now stands, the most vigorous, active and effective enemy of advance in medical science. It clings with the pertinacity of ignorance and the devotedness of faith to antiquated error; and repels the truth which is newly discovered with the hatred of bigotry.

If we have here employed an impersonation, let us understand what is meant to be personified. Superstition is a term derived from the words super, above, and sto, I stand. It is employed to designate a certain condition or operation of mind in the exercise of belief. For instance, it is applied to the belief in witchcraft, ghosts, fairies, genii, &c. This term is beautifully adapted to express the mental condition or operation to which it is thus applied. Super sto, I stand above.—Above what? Above all facts or want of facts; above all evidence or the absence of all evidence and above and beyond all reason. In other words; I believe or disbelieve because I will to believe or not to believe. The mental



operation in this case may therefore be expressed as the action of faith under the influence of the will and without the concurrence of the judgment.

Superstition must render the mind which is prone to its influence, unfit for scientific research. And it has necessarily been long since discarded and avoided in many of the paths of science. The Zoologist no longer discourses of centaurs and griffens, and the chemist has ceased to perform incantations in his laboratory. In some branches of science the knowledge of facts and names constitutes the science. The knowledge of the plants which exist, their names and the relations which they bear to each other forms the science of botany. The knowledge of the elementary constituents, the form, color, density, specific gravity, &c. of minerals, is the science of mineralogy. Here the things which are known are facts in nature; and of these, observation is the teacher. Imagination and belief have no concern in the matter. The man who would deny the existence of a plant or of a mineral with the specimens before him, or who would assert on hypothesis the existence of plants and pretend to describe them, although such had never been found, would be justly despised by the cultivators of those sciences. Without a strict adherence to the rule, to admit nothing which cannot be proved, and to deny nothing which is positively ascertained, the wildest chimeras of the imagination might be palmed upon us as real truths.

But in medicine, it is unfortunately different. Here there is oftentimes more regard paid to what is termed authority, than to the observation of facts. In consequence of this disposition, the superstitious notions of past times are received as truths, although changed in name and form, and oftentimes perhaps for the worse. Whilst new discoveries whose value can readily be tested by observation and experiment are rejected and their proper investigation is derided. The latter point is fully exemplified in that greatest of modern or ancient discoveries in medicine: namely: Homœopathy. This beautiful and most highly useful science has met with all the reproach and opposition which superstition and ignorance has ever exercised against advancing truth. True to themselves and their accustomed course they charge their own faults upon that which will destroy them. And it thus happens that many very ignorant

persons believe that superstition is in some manner connected with Homœopathy. A brief view of the prominent facts relating to this science will not only serve to show the falsity of this opinion, but will afford us a striking contrast between a system of medicine founded upon observation and experience, and the old school system which are so largely composed of superstitious notions and practices.

Homœopathy asks no belief on authority, no faith in assertion. It only demands observation of the facts in nature; and admits only of legitimate inferences from these facts.

It is true, that the homœopathist believes in certain things as facts which are denied to be facts by his opponents. For example, he believes that very minute doses of medicine are capable of producing important effects upon the animal system. But he does this, because he has observed the fact in such numerous instances, that he cannot doubt its existence.—Is it superstition to believe a fact upon sufficient evidence?—Certainly not. Nor is the fact so new or strange that if he should believe it of every medicinal agent, that he should be considered very credulous.

With the facts constantly before us, that small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, and a variety of other diseases are produced by inappreciable quantities of the infecting agent. With the knowledge, that the miasms of sickly countries and those which produce influenza, cholera and plague have never yet been detected by our ablest chemists in their analysis of the atmosphere. With these facts and this knowledge before us, who but the most unphilosophically incredulous can doubt that very minute doses of pathogenetic agents are capable of producing important effects upon the animal economy? To multiply illustrations may be unnecessary, but as it is easy and not uninteresting to do so, it may be remarked, that those who have been poisoned by the wind which has blown upon them from the swamp-sumach, or those who have fainted from the odor of lillies or musk, and those who have had the asthma from the effluvia of Ipecacuanha, must all acknowledge that they have experienced very important effects from very minute doses.

Let us suppose for the sake of argument, that there is no miasm in sickly countries, that there are no infectious emanations in small-pox and measles, that the Rhus did not



poison, nor the Musk make faint, nor the Ipecacuanha act upon the respiratory nerves. Let us suppose all this, and more; that all the persons who have had these affections were to have become sick just in the manner and just at the time they did, as patients are said to recover under homœopathic treatment, that is, for no other reason and from no other cause than that they were to get so. Suppose all this were as here stated, still, the belief, founded as it has been upon observations of numerous cases and careful scrutiny and comparison of the same, can not be considered superstition, but must be admitted to be mistake.

But such suppositions are too absurd to be seriously admitted; for it would require the most monstrous credulity to believe that such a large number of physicians and others in so many parts of the world and supported in their judgment by an immense number of facts could be mistaken in relation to the simple fact of the operation of morbid agents in very minute doses.

What is there then so startling in the proposition that diseases may be cured by very minute doses of medicines that its scientific investigation should be scouted? Are not all medicines morbid agents? Is it not in consequence of their power of modifying the actions of the animal economy that they operate as remedial agents? If so, their curative operations may be rationally expected from as minute doses as are capable of producing disease. It certainly appears to be a rational inference that Rhus might modify an existing erysipelas, or Ipecacuanha exert an alterative power in a present asthma, in as small doses as would be sufficient to produce these disorders in persons in apparent health.

Besides all this: it is not in the least degree more inexplicable that medicines should produce these effects in very small quantities, than that they should operate as they do in larger doses. We cannot yet explain, how or why, the Tartrate of Antimony causes vomiting, or Rhubarb purging, or Mercury salivation. It is true, we may say that the first causes an inversion of the action of the muscles of the stomach; that the second increases the peristaltic action of the bowels; and that the last stimulates the salivary glands to inordinate secretion. If we did not sometimes hear, and once in a while read similar lucid explanations of the operations of medicines, we would not believe that men who had regularly studied any science, could be so stupid

as to give the facts as explanations of themselves. This is indeed the puerile explanation, "that it is so, 'cause it is so."

The truth is, that we know of the operation of medicines by the effects which they produce. And this knowledge is the result of observation and experience. Of the same character is the knowledge of the variation of effects from difference of dose.

In spite of these obvious truths, many people speak as if there were some other mode or means of knowing these things. They speak as if there were an intuitive perception or an inspiration which is to be depended upon in regard to doses. The name which is most frequently applied to this inspiration or intuition is common sense. It is usually employed after this manner: "Your common sense must teach you that no medicinal agent can operate in such minute quantities as the hundredth or even as the fiftieth part of a grain." It is a shame, thus to abuse the respectable quality of common sense, by blending its name with such common nonsense. But it is more shameful still to bestow its name upon such an imaginary attribute of the human mind as this intuitive perception. We have said imaginary, because there are some slight doubt of its existence. If it does exist, it will enable to dispense with much of the labor of observation and the trouble and hazard of experiment. We may begin by questioning it in this manner. Since you have taught us that no medicine operates in the fiftieth part of a grain? tell us will any act in the fortieth part of a grain? If it answers, no; let us ask, what it has to say in regard to doses of the tenth of a grain, or a grain, or a hundred grains? If not incapable of saying any thing else than no; it may at length begin to answer yes; they will operate in this dose. Therefore, the professors of this intuitive perception require no process even of study, to learn the doses in which medicines will act, because this knowledge is intuitive. However valuable that may esteem it, we who lay no claim to it do not envy them its possession, as its vaticinations do not accord with the results obtained from observation, experience and the exercise of common sense.

On a review of what has just been said, it will be found that the homœopathist rests his belief of the operation of minute doses, on observation of facts. Here is neither superstition nor mysticism. But with his opponents we find the disposition to deny investigation;



and to discredit facts by means of a mystical mental attribute. Here truly is mysticism.

Having acquitted Homœopathy of the charge of superstition, we next proceed to examine into the doctrines of the old school of medicine, and see whether it is not the guilty party.

Not to go back to the times when they appointed the weapon which had injured, in order to cure the wound which it had inflicted. Not to call up for judgment the fantastic and superstitious opinions and practices of other times. But to exhibit the superstitions which are to be found in the doctrines and practice of the present day is now our object. To note all, would require more time than would be allowed to a single lecture. We shall therefore limit ourselves to a few examples, which may accomplish as much good as a more laborious investigation, by convincing physicians of the strong necessity which exists for them to cultivate those dispositions of mind which are favorable to philosophical research.

We will first direct our attention to certain superstitions connected with blood letting. But it must be understood, that we do not intend at this time, to express our opinions in relation to bleeding, as a remedial means. Our intention is here to confine ourselves to a consideration of it as a superstitious usage.

It was once a very common practice for persons to be bled once a year. And whole families, from the aged grandsire to the youngest child were submitted to the performance of this barbarous and superstitious rite. This custom although not entirely extinct is rapidly passing away. It was founded upon no observation of its beneficial effects. No statistics were ever collected to show that persons lived longer or more heartily from its observance. Reason had nothing to do with it. Superstition commanded a blind obedience, which was readily yielded. The mental feelings or operations which produced this result, must have been of precisely the same character as those which forbid the changing of stocking which had been put on wrong side out, for fear that it might spoil good luck.

Unfortunately for the happiness of the human family, the equally superstitious practice of bleeding in that situation where blood is most required, to the injury of the individual and the deterioration of the race, is still quite common. Here also, no statistics prove the rectitude of the practice, but, on the contrary, daily experience shows its very pernicious

consequences. And yet the practitioners of medicine generally aid in the maintenance of this absurd custom, which professes all the characteristics of the most revolting and degrading superstition. These are the infliction of positive injury and suffering in the dread of a mysterious evil, and in the hope of an unknown good.

That customs so ridiculous and detestable should have continued so late in the nineteenth century, amid the great advancements in scientific knowledge, affords a strong illustration of the truth of a remark made by a French writer, that "superstitious ideas are almost ineffacable, being engraved by fear or hope." "*Les idées superstitieuses sont presque ineffacables, entant grave's par la peur ou l'espérance.*"

Let us pass from these grave and serious errors to amuse ourselves for a moment over a comparatively innocent superstition of some of our medical brethren of Europe. It may recall to our minds some other silly notions in relation to blood-letting, which may prevail in our own country. The one alluded to, is mentioned by the justly celebrated Magendie in one of his lectures, in the following manner.

"But there is another method of blood-letting, which is reserved for great and important occasions, and to which very honorable and conscientious men accord incontestable efficacy; I mean *cross* bleeding. Suppose a case in which a variety of therapeutical measures have proved unavailing, while the disease continues to gain ground; a case, in short, in which ordinary art is powerless. What is to be done under such circumstances? A consultation of medical celebrities is, of course, held, and upon what do you suppose the deliberation sometimes turns? Upon the propriety of opening a vein in the right arm, at the same time as another in the left foot! I was actually, some while past, one of a consulting party, among whom this proposition led to a discussion worthy of taking rank with the richest scenes of comedy. I do not seek, gentlemen, to excite your hilarity; the patient was a dying man, who had but a few moments to live. Who would have dreamed that in an age which judges with such severity the prejudices of our fathers, men could be found not only to tolerate, but actually to extol such supernatural practices? Is there, I would ask, such a very great difference between the employment of amulets, which have supplied such a capital butt for our gibes, and the con-



vidence attributed to bleedings, the jets of which cross each other in the form of an X? The day will come, and may not be far removed, when the profession will refuse to believe, that in the year of grace, 1837, conscientious practitioners of the capital of France, were found to countenance such monstrous absurdities."

Thus speaks Magendie. Let us add: the day will come, and may not be far removed, when the profession will shake off the trammels of superstition and become the benefactors of mankind, by the cultivation of true medical science.

It may be said, with truth, that these superstitions are not adopted by all the adherents to the old school doctrines. But it cannot be, truly denied, that they generally if not universally accept the doctrine of tonics. If this has no foundation in fact; if there is no agent known, which possesses, not a mere nutritive, but, an inherent strengthening power; is not the belief in a tonic, to be considered as visionary, absurd and superstitious, as a belief in the philosopher's stone, which could transmute the baser metals to gold; or in the Elixir of Life, which should confer eternal health and youth.

The extension of this doctrine among medical men is due, in a considerable degree, to Cullen, who attempted to explain the curative effects of Peruvian barks in intermittent fever, on the grounds, that the barks by their tonic properties, prevented a recurrence of the debility upon which he supposed the disease to depend. Originally the idea of the tonic, was intimately associated with that of the tanning properties of barks. The latter were to convert the dead skins of animals into leather, and it was supposed that they must be capable of strengthening the living fibre. But as a large number of medicines which do not possess the property of tanning, also cured intermittent fever, this latter doctrine was pretty generally abandoned, even before the discovery that the curative power of the barks in intermittent fever depended not on their tannin, but on an alkaloid, the Quinia.

As barks were admitted to cure intermittent fever by their tonic powers, the same powers must be accorded to all other articles which effected the same purpose; and arsenic and a vast number of other agents were placed in the catalogue of tonics, and preserve this place and denomination in the books on the

Materia Medica at the present day. This shows that although the tanning doctrine on which the doctrine of tonics was based, could not be supported, still the latter has continued to exist in spite of the destruction of its foundation.

The abandonment of the tanno-tonic theory has, however, led to great difficulties among the believers in tonics. They appear to feel themselves obliged to tell how tonics operate as tonics. One supposes them to be sedatives, whilst another thinks that they are mild and permanent stimulants. But the contradictions, absurdities and puerilities into which the tonicists run, can only be appreciated by reading their works.

We would meet the doctrine of tonics as a question of fact. We would ask, do the Peruvian barks, Arsenic and the bitters which stand at the head of the lists of tonics, possess directly strengthening properties. If so, each one of us who falls short of the strength of which humanity is capable, may hope to attain this standard, by a perseverance in their employment. But who of us would, on guidance afforded by observation of their effects, take a course of Cinchona or Arsenic, when in health, to increase his strength. Or who of you will employ bitters freely for a long time, when he hears, even, the advocates of their tonic powers say, "that bitters ultimately produce atony, if continued for a long time?" Not one. We will leave this to the partizans of the superstitious school, and to their deluded followers and victims.

Imperfect and erroneous as was this theory of Cullen, it should still be held in grateful remembrance. It was an attempt to explain a fact. It is true, that it proved a failure, and even ridiculous in some of its features. And, worse still, that it introduced ideas and practices into medicine, which were false and pernicious. Yet it was this very theory which lead the illustrious Hahnemann to investigate the real effects of the Peruvian bark upon the human system. Engaged in translating some of the works of Cullen, from the English into the German language; the views of this author in regard to the mode of operation of remedies in the cure of intermittent fever, appeared to him so unsatisfactory, that he resolved to ascertain the operation of Cinchona when taken in the state of health. The results of his experiments were such as to induce farther experimentation and deep research, which at length guided him to the recognition of the



homœopathic law of cure ; the most valuable discovery ever made in medical science.

We often hear of medicines as purifiers of the blood ; of sulphur, or of sarsaparilla, or of purgatives purifying the blood. We, perhaps, may not read of these things in books, written by very learned physicians. And, perhaps, it may be said that this is the doctrine of a preceding age, and not of the present. But, as was very correctly remarked by Dr. Bayard, in his instructive lecture at our last annual meeting: "the professional theory and language of one age, become the popular language and theory of the succeeding age. The explanations which the physician finds it most convenient to give his patient, are intermediate between the two, (i. e.) half professional, half popular ; half in the language of the old theory, which has had time to diffuse itself through the community, and half in the language of the recent authors, with which the medical man may be familiar."

The present views, practice and language of physicians in relation to purifiers of the blood, affords a strong illustration of the truth of this remark. The idea of particular medicines purifying the blood is still strong in the popular mind. This is, because its medical teachers, although they repudiate the humoral pathology, yet leave their patients under the impression, when sulphur and sarsaparilla are prescribed, that these medicines are given to purify the blood ; and when they attempt to repel cutaneous diseases by external applications, they at the same time direct the employment of purgatives : asserting, that there is no danger to be apprehended from the repulsion of these diseases of the skin, if care be taken at the same time to carry off the disease through the bowels by means of cathartics.

It may appear a little dishonest to deny the doctrine of impurities in the blood, and at the same time to prescribe remedies for its purification. But we do not make this accusation. For contradictory as these doctrines are, we can admit, that they are still both honestly believed. It affords another exemplification of the operation of faith under the will, without the concurrence of the judgment, where inconsistencies are more likely to occur than to be avoided.

The incessant elimination of matters by the animal system, so dissimilar in character to the aliment, leads to the conclusion, that the matters ingested are at length changed into forms from which no power can be derived,

and then their removal is demanded. As the blood is the vehicle in which these matters are carried to the various orders of excretion, it must contain things which may very properly be termed impurities. A check or alteration of the secernent action of any excernent organ, may cause the matters which it is the function of such organ to remove, to be present in excess. The consequences of such an accumulation, must differ according to the organ or organs affected, and the character of the affection. As chemistry has taught us that the excreted matters present not only a great variety of forms, but also a great diversity of chemical constitution ; the idea that a medicine like sarsaparilla or sulphur can act as a general chemical agent in the neutralisation of these matters is too preposterous to be entertained for a moment. Nor does experience in the use of these medicines afford grounds for attributing to them any such power. It is true that each may remove some forms of disease, but so can every other medicinal agent. The remedy in every case of disease is that agent which can so modify the vital principle as to cause a restoration of the performance of the proper functions of the deranged organs. We can conceive of no remedy but that which shall operate in this manner. We may drench the disordered system with sarsaparilla ; we may afflict it with sulphur and purgatives, and diaphoretics and diuretics and yet only increase its disturbance and suffering. The only other way in which we can imagine a remedy to purify the blood, is that it should be intelligent to know the impurities, and organised to be capable of siezing and throwing them out of the system.

The symptoms of diseases, their courses and their terminations so often, appear to be the efforts of the system to effect its restoration to health, that Von Helmont adopted the idea of the existence in the animal body of an intelligent principle which directs these movements. It was embraced by a number of physicians of great talent and high standing. This doctrine is not very widely dissimilar from that of the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, which is generally adopted, to a greater or less extent at the present time. Both owe their origin to the fact just stated, and stand as its theoretical explanation.

If then, as we seem justified in admitting, the symptoms of disease are generally the product of the effort of the system for its restoration to healthy action, what can be more ra-



tional than the employment of a homœopathic remedy, which from the circumstance, that its primary action is in the direction of the recuperative efforts of the organisation, must hasten the necessary crisis, and by its secondary operation in accordance with the law of reaction, must favor the cessation of violent action when this ceases to be requisite.

These remarks are not made to prove the existence of the homœopathic law. Its recognition is based upon an immense multitude of facts, and neither requires nor can be strengthened by theoretic speculation. In other words, it is itself a fact. But is allowable to attempt sometimes to explain how it does operate.

We have just employed the term crisis, and we have employed it to signify one of those changes of action which so frequently occur in disease, and which appear to be necessary to restoration to health. For instance, the eruption of the pock in small pox, which is usually accompanied by a great abatement of the fever in one of the crises of this disorder. The profuse perspirations, &c., which are attended with immediate abatement of other forms of fever, are the crisis in these fevers. Not that the pock or the sweat is itself the crisis, but the grand changes which accompanies these, and of which these themselves are only parts, are the crises. Each disease requires a form of crisis peculiar to itself; it may be by the eruption of rash or pock, or by this or that kind of perspiration, or by the kidneys, or the bowels, or in some other manner. In diseases arising from excess of excrementitious matters in the blood we should expect that the crisis would be marked by an unusually copious secretion from the organ whose action has been suspended. But this though it may sometimes be the case is not always so; for in the disordered conditions of the system, these matters may undergo changes and modifications which never occur in the state of health, and may require to be thrown off by other organs than those primarily affected. How wrong must then be the practice of violently deranging the organs of excretion, forcing false crises and preventing or rendering less perfect the real? How many cases of life long suffering have there not been, which were caused in this manner?

And this practice is common from a vague notion which is popular among physicians and others; that purgatives, and diaphoretics and diuretics purify the system. This cannot

be. The normal performance of the functions of the excretory organs do purify the system. The abnormal performance of these functions under the deranging influences of these agents involves a more or less complete suspension of the normal actions, as the difference of character of the excretions under the different circumstances clearly evinces.

One would think that this observation alone, would have deterred men from inducing violent derangement of the organs of excretion. But superstition which sees in the self-inflicted sufferings of the fanatics of Hindostan, the proper performance of a religious rite; can glory in the depraved secretions produced in the throes of the tortured organs; and can believe with the very evidences of mischief before their eyes, that they are doing the system good service, and are freeing it from its impurities.

This brief review of several important points in the history and present condition of medical science, must lead to the conclusion that submission to the dictates of superstition and an indulgence in chimerical and illu-ory speculation have impeded its progress. The experience of the past will be of great advantage to us, if we make proper use of it. The knowledge of the errors into which our predecessors have fallen, may teach us to avoid similar ones. We have learned that science cannot be advanced by what is untrue; and that there is no use in denying facts because they do not accord with our views. They are obstinate things, which will exist, deny them as we may, and will always give the lie to false theories. They are the basis of all true science, and are therefore to be sought, studied, and as far as possible understood. It is in this simple but laborious manner that we have to pursue our object, the improvement of medical science. We have to ascertain the facts in regard to the operations upon the animal economy, of the agents which surround us, and that too in all the various forms, modes and quantities, in which either by accident or intention, they may be brought to act upon it. We have, more closely than has hitherto been done, to observe all the phenomena of health and disease, that we may arrive not at an explanation of them, but to a knowledge of the laws which govern them. Enough is seen by every observant and experienced physician to make him acknowledge, that here is a field the cultivation of which may produce a rich harvest. Laws

may be discovered which may give a greater certainty to the application of the homœopathic law.

The attainment of this latter object, namely, the greater certainty in the application of our remedial agents, will be greatly forwarded by an acquaintance with the facts in regard to the relations of the pathogenetic operations and remedial effects of remedies which are closely similar to each other in chemical or botanical characters, or which possess other marked resemblances. These investigations lead us into every department of the natural sciences, which thus become incorporated with medicine, and are no longer to be viewed as merely collateral branches, but as members.

What an immense scope is here presented for the exercise of human intelligence? And how much must we feel elevated by the thought, that our minds are actively engaged in the pursuit of this most valuable knowledge; and that we are contributing, even if it be but little, to that fund of information, which is to raise man to higher and higher elevation as an intellectual being, and by bringing him to more and more health to render him a happier and a better one.

We have said a better being, and we mean it. Imperfect health is the cause of insanity or intellectual or moral weakness. Vice and the miseries which are its accompaniments owe their existence to these causes. Remove the cause and the effect will cease. Remove the ill health, the intellectual disorder disappears. The improvement in medicine already introduced by the discovery of the homœopathic law justifies us in looking forward to the time when we will be able to accomplish all this, and when in the place of poisons to punish crime, we shall have hospitals for the cure of those who are unhealthy enough to wilfully do wrong.

This may be considered as enthusiasm. If it is so, it is still well. Let us indulge and cultivate it. For unenviable is the life of the practitioner of medicine, who has not enthusiasm, and faith, and hope in the advancement of his science. Let him accumulate wealth, let him eat of the fat and drink of the strong, let him ride in pomp, and let unmerited honors be showered on his head. Commerce might fill his coffers more rapidly and more largely; and as to honors they weigh but little against the subserviance which such a one is likely to exhibit to the caprices of his patients, and to his flattery of their prejudices.

But wealth and honor when won by the physician, are earned with continual toil, which scarcely allows to him the possession of a moment, which he can call his own. Night and day he is called to new toils and fresh anxieties. He lives in the atmosphere of disease, and is often compelled to visit the bedside of death. It is not the well who seek his aid, and it is all a sick world to him.

What can compensate him then for the devotion of his life to his profession, but the knowledge of the benefits which he is bestowing upon his patients? What can reward him but the consciousness that he is instrumental in advancing the progress of mankind to higher attainment and happiness.

### IS IT SO?

THE British Journal of Homœopathy has not noticed any of the proceedings of the American Institute of Homœopathy since its first meeting; nor has the volume of Transactions published under the direction of the Central Bureau been noticed by that Journal.

It is not our intention to censure the Editors of the British Journal, for these singular omissions should not, perhaps, be charged to these gentlemen; as we have received intimations that by private, unfriendly communications, from this country and from this city, they have been led astray.

We think we shall be able to get the facts, and when we do so, we shall fearlessly publish them, with the names of the persons concerned in the contemptible work of suppressing a knowledge of the progress of our science and art. The "rule or ruin" doctrine will not do for this age and for this country; and we will not hesitate to expose any one who allows himself to be governed by this rule in the Homœopathic school.

### HYDROPATHY & HOMŒOPATHY IMPARTIALLY APPRECIATED, &c.

BY EDWIN LEE, ESQ.

A pamphlet of 94 pages, with the above title has been published in this city.

The "grand flourish" which ushered this work to the notice of the public, induced us to part with twenty-five cents to possess it. The word "impartially," in the title page, attracted our attention, together with the favorable notices of the work which appeared



in several of the newspapers of our city. We were caught napping, for it did not at the moment occur to us that these notices, as usual, were probably paid advertisements.

The "Hydropathy" part of the work we shall pass by; as the public is in a fair way of receiving all necessary information on that subject, from the numerous establishments lately organized for the accommodation of those who prefer the water treatment. But the "Homœopathy" part of it, we will notice. It is mostly made up of extracts from several writers, who were guilty of the folly of misrepresenting the subject they professed to explain. It is enough for Homœopaths to know, that Mr. Lee has drawn largely from the work of Dr. Wm. Leo-Wolf; who made a personal attack on the character of Hahnemann, altogether uncalled for even if what is alleged was true; but being false, as hundreds have testified, it rendered Dr. Leo-Wolf contemptible in the estimation of every one acquainted with the facts. This branch of the pamphlet is anything but "impartial." There is a third part to this pamphlet entitled, notes by the American Editor. The name of this Editor does not appear, but we have no difficulty in detecting who it is, when we compare what almost weekly appears in the "Sunday Dispatch" in favor of *Chrono-Thermalism*. Our readers, with this information will at once perceive the object of this "American Editor" in the publication of "Hydropathy and Homœopathy," and also in securing so much puffing of it in the newspapers.

Homœopathy has now reached that period that she may claim to be established. She cannot be overthrown. She is now a "fixed fact." She has been tested in every part of the civilized world by competent physicians with the same results. An *impartial* notice could but declare that the Homœopathic system of medicine has taken its place among the sciences, and can never be removed. We have not said anything directly of Chrono-Thermalism; we will now only remark, that it is modified Allopathy. If the "American Editor" of the above named work be Dr. Turner, of which we have no doubt, and if he truly represents the mode of practice he advocates, then Chrono-Thermalism lays her foundation on Galen's dogma. *Contraria Contrariis Curantur*, or Contraries cured by Contraries.

The absurdity of this dogma, when applied

to practice can be made to appear in a few words: "We must ascertain what state is contrary to a given morbid state, and what medicine can establish a contrary condition: what state for instance is contrary to headache, to measles, to sore throat, &c; for if the *contrary* to such states be merely the absence of the morbid symptoms, the rule is a mere truism, and amounts to this, 'Cure each disease by that which removes it.' If more be intended, then the rule is an enigma requiring a distinct theory for every disease and for every medicine." If therefore Chrono-Thermalism relies on the above as a basis, it is without a foundation—and cannot be true.

We do not think it necessary to undertake a review, in the usual mode, of the work before us; for the false statements which appear in it have been corrected a hundred times; and its ridicule is not of the best quality; and the "American Editor" should not attempt ridicule; and as to his wit—he is not very witty.

#### MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE WAY OF A REFORM IN MEDICINE.

It is our purpose to avoid personalities in the columns of this journal. There are, however, circumstances in which opponents place physicians of our school, which makes it exceedingly difficult to strictly adhere to this rule. Scarcely an article appears in any of the medical journals against Homœopathy that does not contain some unjust personalities, which not only weakens them very much, but engenders feelings inconsistent with well-educated minds, that may live for ages, reaching to children's children. We never read over an article in which we have indulged in any measure in personalities, but we feel mortified. We feel that we have, in this respect, betrayed a weakness, and that such a course is not calculated to promote the interest of true medical science. If physicians of our school are denounced as knaves and fools by all the medical journals, what of it? We do not doubt that both the one and the other may be found, who acknowledge faith in the doctrines and practice of Hahnemann. But, suppose that all could truly be classed among the one or the other? Would a single truth in medical science and art be disturbed thereby? We think not.

Suppose all who pretend to receive the doctrines of Homœopathy could be proved guilty of mongrelism, or bad faith in their professional duties—would “one jot or tittle” of true medical science be changed thereby? Most certainly not. Should the physicians of this age be guilty of devouring one another for opinion’s sake?

Has the medical profession gained anything by the denunciations of Dr. Forbes for the frank avowal of his opinions; and Prof. Henderson for his imperfect trials of the law of cure as put forth by Hahnemann? We doubt if it has. Has the *New York Academy of Medicine* accomplished anything for the true interest of its members and the profession by its anathema’s against those of equal standing with themselves, and as well known to the public for moral worth and medical skill? Some of its members now acknowledge it has not.

Can truth be changed by associations of men? Do majority resolutions make truth anything but what it is? Do these prove any thing true or false? If the Academy of Paris, and the Academy of New York declare Animal Magnetism true, would it be made true by such declarations? If these associations should declare Homœopathy false, is it evidence that it is so? Such are only the associated opinions of men, put forth with the usual effect to retard the progress of individual investigation—absolutely prevents any investigation whatever, either by themselves or others.

What a disgrace it is, for American physicians to allow themselves to be hoodwinked by the doings of foreign aristocratic associations, most of which are controlled solely by a few minds, and in some instances by a single mind. American Physicians! who, in all likelihood, are the ablest practitioners of the known world, allow themselves the silly attempt to arrest the freedom of mental action. It may be said—no such thing is intended. Indeed! Then why urge the colleges to “swear” every graduate “upon the altar of his Alma Mater, that he will protect and defend her sacred truths and principles.” What does this mean? It is nothing less than this—that every graduate shall swear “to protect and defend” what has been taught him, in the lectures he has heard in the college from which he graduates. “Most noble, grave and reverend seniors,” a pretty work you would make of it. You would go back to the period when

men’s minds were bound—and here, in the nineteenth century, and in free America, compel graduates in medicine to think, always think, as you think—do, always do, as you do—and to secure these objects you would place before them the fear of the sin of perjury. This won’t do. The *Mississippi Journal*, the *New York Annalist*, and one or two others, urge that measure. And for what purpose? To prevent the spread of the doctrines and practice of Hahnemann. To prevent a real reform in the healing art. To prevent the downfall of quackery. Hear the *Annalist* in its ravings: “We owe it also to the profession of which we are members; which we love and cherish, as the exposition of saving truths to humanity, to protect it [Allopathy] against the slanders of renegades who go about decrying its merits and its usefulness, bringing it [Allopathy] everywhere into contempt and discredit, and setting men against it as if it were both dangerous in practice and erroneous in theory, and who would substitute for it, for their own advantage, one which we, and we must think *they* know, to be justly liable to either imputation. We entreat our brethren to reflect upon these things, and in concert take action in the premises.”

Combine! combine! *Vie et armis*, put down Homœopathy.

#### SUPPRESSION OF QUACKERY.

Two things must be accomplished to secure a suppression of quackery. 1st. The public mind should be instructed in regard to diseases, and the effects of medicines. 2nd. Educated Physicians should cure all curable cases that come under their treatment, so that the sick may have evidence in their own experience of the true art of healing. If physicians rely upon the diploma to secure the confidence of the public, and not upon success in the cure of the sick; and if the people are to be kept in ignorance of diseases, and the effects of medicines upon the human system, the door will remain wide open for quackery to go in and out and find support. Of all the evils with which the human race is afflicted, few, if any, exceed that which has been brought upon it by the medical profession itself, by concealing from the public a true knowledge of medicine.

The idea, that if correct information on medicine be furnished to the people, “every



man would become his own doctor," is not true. It is remarkable that any intelligent physician should entertain such a sentiment; for they themselves are the first to consult a colleague in their own sickness. No one relies on his own knowledge in his own case; nor does he do so in cases in his own family. If, then, physicians are the most prompt to seek the advice of colleagues for themselves and families; can it for a moment be supposed that intelligent laymen, who have correct views of diseases, and the action of remedies would trust to their own knowledge, and prescribe for themselves and others?—this would not be—it is contrary to all experience.

Another kindred error prevails to the encouragement of quackery: it is, if the laity are induced to inform themselves in medicine, the dignity of the really educated Physician would be diminished. The basis of this notion is, that the dignity of the Physician consists in his possessing knowledge which others do not possess, and not in his skill in effecting cures of diseases by virtue of that knowledge. We contend that the true dignity of the physician is to be found in his skill, and nowhere else; this is felt and acknowledged by no one so much as that layman who has made himself acquainted with the principles of the healing art. He who is ignorant of medicine, whose mind is confused on that subject, who has no distinct idea of any principle of the art of healing, is just as likely to place his confidence in the impudent pretender, as in the truly scientific and skilful practitioner. That this is a fact should not be doubted, for it is a matter for every day's observation. Therefore those Allopathic Journals that sneer at us for the attempt we have made to spread before the public a knowledge of medicine, do not understand our real object—they do not perceive that the tendency of what we have done, and what we shall continue to do, is to elevate the medical profession in the estimation of the people, and to place every physician on his own real merits, which essentially consist in his skill. What do the sick require of a physician, but to cure them? Will his high reputation for scholarship in the various departments of science render him acceptable, if he fails to afford relief—if he lacks skill? This is the reason, and the only reason usually given for the employment of quack doctors and quack medicines. And what makes the matter

worse is, that cases under a consultation of learned physicians are pronounced incurable, which, afterwards are cured, or essentially relieved by the empirical means of the illiterate. What use do the people intend to make of the medical profession? What object have our legislatures in view, when they grant charters and appropriate money for medical colleges? Can it be anything else, but to qualify men to treat diseases successfully, and to furnish information for the preservation of health? True honor, therefore, will be conferred on those of the profession who have a readiness and dexterity in the application of true principles to practical purposes. The popular errors among the people on diseases and medicines, had their origin in the Allopathic school; and that school even in this day seeks to perpetuate them. Who taught the people to believe in the "impurities of the blood?" Who invented that silly word, "billious," which has done incalculable injury to health and life, and enriched quack medicine merchants? Who taught the mischievous doctrine that the bowels can be cleansed by cathartics, and the stomach cleansed by emetics? Greater absurdities cannot be found. Who taught the people that they should take cathartics in the spring of the year, to thin the blood and carry off bad humors. Hundreds of other equally false and pernicious doctrines have been promulgated by the Allopathic school, which have let in a torrent of quackery which they cannot now control; and they cry out lustily, with deep lamentation, we have lost the confidence of the community; because the people are ignorant—they do not appreciate our learning—our "regular" education—our diplomas—they will not employ us to "purify their blood," and cleanse their stomachs and bowels; but their stinginess is such, that they go to the apothecary, to the nostrum-seller, to save the "regular" doctor's fees. This comes of informing the people that they have impure blood, dirty stomachs and worse bowels, and an excess of bile; and that emetics and cathartics will accomplish all these purposes, whether administered by an apothecary—a patent medicine merchant, or a "regular" doctor.

The conclusion is irresistible, if the whole question is fairly and fully examined, that Allopathic physicians can never suppress quackery—for that school is the quintessence of quackery itself. It is the full embodiment

of that hated monster, and if quackery is to be suppressed, suppress Allopathy, and the work is accomplished.

The Annalist quotes from the Mississippi Journal, "*We hold that it is not only the legitimate right of every regular practitioner to expose errors of empiricism, but his bounden duty to do so; provided it is done with proper professional regard, and in the absence of all selfish consideration.*" This, the Annalist commends very highly, and says it is "scholastically elegant." It may be so, but the "provided" part of it is quite obscure. Allopathic journals, especially the Annalist, often speak of "the absence of all selfish considerations" on the part of physicians of the Allopathic school. If this is intended as a fling at the physicians of the Homœopathic school, we will inform our neighbor, that those of the latter school, are not such fools as to believe in disinterested benevolence. They honestly and faithfully labor, day and night, to relieve the sufferings of their fellow creatures, safely, promptly and certainly; and in this they see their interest, and by this course of life they expect an ample return for their labor, for they believe in the doctrine of "value received." The other part of the sentence we approve; and also think it "elegant." The duty inculcated we feel bound to perform, and it is for this reason we say so much of Allopathy. We regard it full of the "errors of empiricism;" and being a "regular practitioner," and having no doubt of "the legitimate right," we shall continue to make, from time to time, such expositions as should tend to rid the world of Allopathy. And if this is done, a good work will have been accomplished.

A while ago the Annalist advertised for cases of failure in Homœopathic practice; and in the number for August 15th, it expresses deep regret that not a single case had been reported. This is remarkable; we were not prepared, even with our strong faith in our art, for such a result. Continue the advertisement, Mr. Annalist.

WE have patiently waited for the astounding developments which the N. Y. Annalist promised, in regard to the reports concerning

the comparative merits of the Homœopathic and Allopathic treatment of the children in our Orphan Asylums in this city. Two numbers of that journal have appeared since that promise was made, but not even a whisper is heard on the subject. Come, Mr. Annalist, either make good your promise, or frankly acknowledge that you cannot.

WOULD it not be well for the New York Academy of Medicine to look to the Annalist. It is getting beside itself—much learning hath made it mad. A few such articles, and they are promised, as that entitled, "An appeal for scientific truth against empiricism," will do the work for the Academy and for Allopathy. By the way, we should like to know what kind of truth that is, which is not scientific. We infer, however, from the tenor of the article, that we are to understand that Homœopathy is true, but it is not scientific—therefore the Annalist hates it with a perfect hatred.

"Are men too idle, too ignorant, too timid, or too undecided, to be willing to communicate the result of their observations, in the attempt to rescue their noble science from the odium attempted to be cast upon it by the renegades from its creed? Painfully true it is, that from some or other of these causes, medical journalism has ever languished, and according to present appearances ever *will languish* in this city."—*Annalist*.

We were not prepared for this—we hope the Annalist will not be suspended. We frankly, however, avow, that we have "selfish considerations" in this desire for the continuance of that periodical; at the same time "it is done with proper professional regard," for no Allopathic journal has done more to awake attention to Homœopathy.

A new and improved edition of Dr. Hering's Domestic Medicine, and also a work by Dr. W. Williamson, on diseases of Females, have been received. We have no room for an extended notice of these useful works in this number. They are for sale by C L Rademacher, Philadelphia; Otis Clapp, Boston; Wm. Raddie and J. T. S. Smith, New York.



The Annalist says: "The time, we proclaim, is come, when we must arm, muster, and be doing. Homœopathy can, and Homœopathy must be exposed and eradicated. 'Eternal vigilance is the price of safety,' and your citadel, if it is to remain impregnable, must be manned, fortified, and defended. Who is so recreant to his flag and cause, as to shrink from this patriotic, this sacred duty?"

This looks warlike. There is dynamic power in that journal, and we should not wonder if something was done.

### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

What has become of this self-constituted and vain glorious body of Allopathic practitioners of medicine, whom the Annalist says, are "the high-minded and better informed among us." If this be so, it fully accounts for the perfect silence of the Academy. Will some member be so kind as to send us the new Constitution and By-Laws. Report says there have been important alterations made; such as to allow the members to show common courtesy to physicians of our school. This accounts for the change in the manners we have noticed lately in some of them.

### OBITUARY.

Homœopathy has to deplore the loss of one of her most eminent German champions, who was among the first who perceived the truth and beauty of the doctrines of Hahnemann, and contributed largely to advance them.

George Augustus Henry Muhlenbein, Doctor of Medicine, Privy Counsellor, Knight of the Order of Henry the Lion, &c., expired at Schöningen, in Brunswick, on the 8th of January of last year, in the 81st year of his age. After completing his medical studies and receiving his degree at Helmstadt, in 1789, he commenced practice in his native town of Königslutter, but soon afterwards removed to Brunswick, and was appointed district physician in Schöningen, where he was greatly distinguished during a pestilential fever that invaded the town for his zeal and humanity towards the poor under his care. About this time he made Hahnemann's acquaintance, who then resided in Königslutter, but he did not then embrace the novel doctrines of the great Reformer. He was one of the first and most zealous in introducing vaccination into his district, on which subject he wrote several papers in Hufeland's journal and elsewhere. During a very fatal epidemic of Scarlatina, which broke out on the Prussian border, he displayed great activity, for which he was re-

warded by the Prussian Academy of Sciences with their silver medal of merit, and by the Landgrave of Hesse Homburg with the title of Hofrath. After this he established himself in Brunswick, where he was nominated Assessor of the Board of Health, and was subsequently appointed body physician to the reigning Duke. In 1822 he became acquainted with Homœopathy by the perusal of Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, and after having practiced according to the doctrines of the prevailing school for thirty three years, he embraced the Homœopathic system, as we learn from his confession of faith in the sixth volume of the *Archiv*. During his subsequent life he practiced Homœopathy with great success, and rendered important services in its propagation. He may be justly termed the Apostle of Homœopathy in the north of Germany. The 50th anniversary of the day when he received his Doctor's degree, was celebrated with much rejoicing by his friends and admirers. A medal was struck in his honor, and a sum of money, subscribed by his friends for a testimonial to him, was devoted, at his request, to the encouragement of provings of medicines. He was one of the founders of the Central Society of Homœopathic Physicians, of which he was once elected President. His energies and efforts in the Homœopathic cause continued unabated till a very advanced period of life, and when he found it impossible to obtain the repeal of the law against the dispensing of medicines by physicians, he established a Homœopathic laboratory in Brunswick. Although his incessant engagement in active practice prevented him writing much, he nevertheless succeeded in converting to Homœopathy, many Allopathic physicians who are now its zealous adherents. In personal appearance he was stout, broad-chested, lively in his movements, and manly and erect in his gait. His forehead was expansive, his eye piercing, and he was not deficient in eloquence. His whole appearance was dignified, and inspired confidence, his manners towards his patients extremely kind and winning. He enjoyed good health until within a few years of his death, when he fell into bad health, probably from over-exertion, as he always seemed to forget his advanced age, and never took any care of himself, nor spared himself any labor. Homœopathy has lost in him an undaunted defender of the truth, the sick a most successful practitioner, and the poor a benevolent friend.—*Brit. Jour. Homœopathy*.

The delay in the publication of this number of the Journal was unavoidable. We hope there will be no necessity for such an apology in future. The September number will be out in a few days, and will contain a most valuable paper from Dr. Joslin.

The proceedings of the Fifth Session of the "American Institute of Homœopathy," are nearly ready for delivery to members.



NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY," may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

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Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.



# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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NO. 5.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1848.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION DEGRADED BY SERVILITY IN ITS MEMBERS.

The history of Medicine proves no class of men more servile in their thoughts and actions than physicians. They are too often mere imitators of one another. There are but few, clear, bold, independent thinkers among them. For thirteen hundred years the errors of Galen controlled the mind of every or nearly so, acknowledged member of the profession throughout the civilized world. And when appeared those bold enough, to break the fetters which had bound themselves and their fellows so long, they become mere mouthpieces and leaders of parties holding doctrines equally erroneous. And this is the state of things at the present period.

The doctrine we advocate in this respect is, "be no man's man." We have as little confidence in him, who, without due investigation, follows Hahnemann, as in him who fol-

lows Galen or Broussais. We advocate "principles not men." We urge, as essential to the progress of true medical science and art, that every practitioner should to the utmost, employ the abilities with which he is endowed, to comprehend those principles applicable to the art of medicine which have been proved true. Theology, Law, and Physics have fixed principles, to which reference is always had for practical purposes. But in medicine, a few principles in Physiology and in Pathology have been discovered and universally acknowledged; but a principle of cure was not known or even sought for until Hahnemann. It is a remarkable fact, that no one, until his day, perceived that the healing art required a law of cure, distinct from the laws of disease. Physicians have, until the last fifty years, acted under the erroneous notion that a true theory of disease was the only essential thing to a prompt, safe, and certain cure. And the prevalence of this error at the present time, is the chief cause why so few embrace Homœopathy; and the reason, also, why there are so few genuine practitioners of it even among those who pretend to have embraced it.

The same beaten track is trod now, as two thousand years ago; and although some modifications at times have been adopted, yet no one anterior to Hahnemann had dared to advocate a radical change in therapeutics, although some of the ablest of the profession had declared a reform necessary in this branch of the healing art. The present classification of the *Materia Medica* receives the confidence of the Allopathic school, and continues to be taught in the colleges, notwithstanding the palpable absurdity of it goes to prove, either that physicians have ceased to think, or they dare not do so. We cannot believe that any competent person who carefully examines that pretended class of drugs termed *Tonics*,

but would be convinced, not alone of the folly of such a classification, but, when employed in practice, under the definition given of *Tonics*, the tendency must be to injure or destroy. *Tonics* are said to be those medicines, which are supposed "to increase the tone of the muscular fibre," or, as Eberle has it, "medicines which impart vigor and tone to the system, without materially increasing either the heat of the body or the frequency of the pulse." The opinion held by physicians and the people is, that there are medicines which impart strength to the human system; and with this is associated the idea, that it is "the result of a slow operation on the animal economy;" consequently, these medicines are usually taken in large and repeated doses, and for a long time. The most common tonic in use is *Quinine*. Did any one ever obtain strength by a long use of this drug? Not one! On the contrary thousands have been made weak by its use. Probably there is not a more pernicious preparation prescribed by the Allopathic school than *Quinine*. We appeal to the experience of those who have taken most of it—we ask such—have you not found weakness instead of strength? We put the question to the thousands who are suffering from *Phthisis Pulmonalis*: many of you may be able to trace your present hopeless state of health to the use of *Quinine*. And even now your physician is daily prescribing large doses of that poison to relieve your debility. You say to him, "I want strength." He replies, "I am giving you the most potent tonic to give you strength. Those who have experience, know full well, that tonic drugs, in the doses of the Allopathic school, induce weakness.

When that school speaks, or rather boasts, (for it is common for her to do so lately,) of her scientific principles in the treatment of diseases, she means mainly the classification of her *Materia Medica*. That is to say, diseases are cured on the "scientific principle" of an Emetic, of a Cathartic, of a Tonic, of an Astringent, of a Narcotic; of an Antispasmodic, of a Diuretic, of an Expectorant, of a Sialogogue, of an Emmenagogue, &c. &c. It is to us the occasion of surprise, that this arbitrary arrangement of drugs should be denominated "established principles." There is another point in close connection, to which we would ask attention. It is this, the same drug is sometimes found in several classes. For example: Mercury is classed among drugs which are said "to repress inordinate

and irregular muscular action," "to give strength to the system," "to quicken or increase the evacuation from the intestines," to "promote the menstrual discharge," to "increase the natural exhalation from the skin," "to increase the salivary discharge," to "occasion a discharge from the nostrils," and to "expel worms from the intestines." Now, we will not undertake to deny that mercury may produce some of these effects in the human system, and many more; but we do deny that the practitioner of Allopathy can at will control the action of that mineral so that such effects only as he may desire shall take place. And further, most of these would be the poisonous effects of the mercury, and not the curative effects—a distinction which would have been made long since, had it not been for the servile submission of many members of the profession to baseless theories. Similar remarks could be made of other drugs, but the chief object of this article is, to furnish proof to sustain the allegation, that there is a want of clear, close and independent thinkers in the medical profession. The interest of all would be promoted if each one for himself, would undertake a careful, thorough and honest investigation of the theory and practice of medicine, and in doing this, on no account pass by Homœopathy.

DYSENTERY.

This disease is prevalent in different parts of our country. In some places it assumes a malignant character, and is very fatal. We have been informed that the Homœopathic treatment has been eminently successful, with the exception of two places, and we are almost certain that these failures were in consequence of a mixed practice, which cannot be too severely reprobated. That physician who cannot trust pure Homœopathy in all diseases, has yet much to learn, and the sooner he sets himself about acquiring a knowledge of the principles of our art, the better for his own interest and that of his patients.

The dysentery has not prevailed in this city as it has in the country. On inquiry of several physicians of our school, in this city, all of whom have had numerous cases of that disease to treat, not one proved fatal.

☞ Subscribers who are in arrears for this Journal, will confer a favor on the Proprietor by remitting the amount immediately.

ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL & MECHANICAL MEANS AND LARGE DOSES, IN CONNEX- ION WITH HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

*Being a report made to the American Institute
of Homœopathy, at its Fifth Annual
Session, in June, 1848.*

BY E. F. JOSLIN, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

A physician who administers a chemical antidote in large doses, does not thereby repudiate the doctrine, that agents which are therapeutic, in the strict and proper sense, should be administered in small doses. The law which regulates the neutralization of a poison in the cavity of the stomach, is radically different from that which regulates the cure of the morbid phenomena which the poison has already produced. The first is a law of chemical action, the last is a law of vital action. Entirely different conditions are required to be fulfilled in the two cases. The neutralization of a poison requires energetic chemical affinity between the poison and the antidote, or between some of their components. It also requires a certain relation between the mass of the poison and that of the antidote—the ratio varying with different substances. The same quantity of the antidote which would be required to neutralize a given amount of any poison in an inanimate vessel, would be required to neutralize it in the cavity of the living stomach; no more, no less. A poisonous dose will always require a ponderable dose of the chemical antidote—in case of some substances, a quantity about equal to that of the poison, in others less, in others more.

On the contrary, no known chemical relation, and no near approximation of weight, are ever required between the poison and the antidote employed to remove the disease which the poison has produced. The relation is the vital one expressed by the law *similia similibus curantur*. The quantity of the vital antidote which is indispensable, and even the quantity which is most advantageous,

is in almost every case of poisoning through the stomach, exceedingly small as compared with the quantity of poison.

The opinion that severe diseases require severe remedies, is a delusion originating in the misapplication of chemical, mechanical and toxicological ideas. The mass of the chemical equivalent is never expressed by an extremely small fraction; neither is that of the mechanical equivalent, in case of the velocities which ordinarily fall under our observation. To form a complete and pure compound, we weigh out the smallest component in a quantity which is immense as compared with the smallest quantity which would act powerfully on the living body. To arrest a large moving ball by means of a momentum equal and opposite to its own, we must select a ball, which—in order that it may have the requisite momentum, (i. e. product of mass into velocity) with any velocity which we are capable of giving it—has an immense magnitude as compared with the smallest dose which would act powerfully on the living body. Again, in order that a drug may quickly destroy the life of a healthy man, i. e., in order that it may be a poison in the strict sense of the term, it must be given in a dose which is immense as compared with an efficient and judicious therapeutic dose; and this is no less true where the therapeutic object is to counteract a poison, than it is in most other cases of acute disease. The dose of medicine depends upon the nature and intensity of the morbid action, and not upon the quantity of poison that has produced it.

The case is entirely different where the object is—not to remove the disease already induced by the poison, but—to prevent the poison from inducing the disease. This last is, in strictness, rather a hygienic than a therapeutic measure. It is more analogous to surgery than to medicine proper. Here the Homœopathic physician suspends for a moment his functions as a therapist proper, and adopts mechanical or chemical expedients, like a board of health, a surgeon, or an Allopathic physician.

The object of medical police is mainly hygienic: it removes noxious filth in order to prevent disease. Its object may be either to prevent an apprehended endemic in a city in which it has not yet commenced, or to prevent it—when once commenced—from extending to individuals not as yet attacked, or—in reference to individuals already attacked—to

obviate a repetition of the poisonous action a repetition which is aggravating and prolonging their disease. In all these cases, even in the last, it is merely removing the influence of morbid physical agents, but not any morbid vital action. Its object and function are preventive.

So it is with some of the earlier operations of a Homœopathic physician, called to a recent case of poisoning, where the poison is still chiefly in the cavity of the stomach. This cavity is practically exterior to the body proper—the living organism. But into this organism a portion of its contents are every moment liable to enter. Among the earlier steps which he is bound to take, is the neutralization of the poison, or its removal from the stomach, or both. For example, if the patient has swallowed acetate of lead, the physician administers a large dose of sulphate of magnesia. He neutralizes a corrosive or poisonous acid by calcined magnesia, and against potash, soda or ammonia, he gives vinegar or other non-poisonous vegetable acids.

In all this, his object is not to act on the living organism, not even on the stomach itself, but on the contents of the stomach; and it would be as absurd to restrict him to Homœopathic principles in the choice of the agent and the dose, as it would be were he cleaning a crucible, or fumigating a house, or purifying a street. However, from the facility with which substances in the stomach may act on the organism, he is bound to avoid, as far as possible, the formation there of new hurtful compounds.

Another part of the duty of the physician frequently is to remove the poison from the stomach. In this case, his function is analogous to that of the surgeon, when he removes a bullet, a needle or any foreign body from the flesh. The surgical operation, as to its direct and immediate effect, may not be remedial; it is oftener, on the contrary, a positive evil, a cause of present pain and hemorrhage. The secondary and remote effects of the first stage of the surgical operation are not remedial, but on the contrary, may be inflammation of the parts which require to be divided before the foreign body can be reached. Yet we deem it right to inflict such evils, in order to prevent a greater evil. So the Homœopathic physician, whilst he denies that vomiting is a proper therapeutic operation, nevertheless considers it admissible as an antitoxical operation. He would not hesitate to tickle

the fauces, or to administer large quantities of tepid water, in order to excite in certain muscles that morbid action on which vomiting depends. He would thus excite a temporary disease in these muscles, for a merely mechanical purpose, viz: the expulsion of the poison. In other cases, he might produce this as an additional result, by the continued administration of a comparatively harmless antidote: for example—to envelope and partially neutralize, and also to remove corrosive sublimate, he would give the white of eggs until he excited a sufficiently copious vomiting.

The Homœopathic physician, aware that emetic and cathartic drugs are often productive of immense mischief, will prefer the more harmless measures above mentioned, in all those cases in which he considers them equally efficient. But if cases occur in which the use of such means, or of the stomach pump, are not likely to remove the poison as promptly as active emetic and cathartic drugs, and delay was dangerous, he would not hesitate to employ these drugs. Like the surgeon, he would not hesitate to inflict the less injury, for the sake of preventing the greater.

Another duty of the physician, is to correct the pathogenetic effects which the poison has already produced in the living forces or organism. The treatment for this purpose should frequently be commenced simultaneously with that for the neutralization and removal of the poison, and should always be continued longer. Here, the physician is called to operate, not on brute matter, but on the living organism and the immaterial vital principle. On this account, we denominate the medicine employed, the vital antidote, in contra-distinction to the chemical antidote, which operates on the poison itself.

The dose of the vital antidote may differ, according as we are treating for the primary pathogenetic action, or for the consecutive effects.

When a large quantity of poison has been taken, and ponderable quantities of it are still circulating with the blood, and continually acting on the organism, it may be proper in some cases to give large doses of the vital as well as of the chemical antidote. Until nearly all the poison has been removed or neutralized, and whilst it is making violent and continually repeated assaults on the vital power, the repetition of the morbid action is continually reproducing the disease, and rendering

a repetition of the medicinal action necessary. This repetition of the medicinal action can be secured by the frequent repetition of small doses; but it may also be secured by repeating at longer intervals, doses which are large as compared with those which would be proper in the Homœopathic treatment of ordinary diseases, however violent. By the larger dose, circulating like the poison in the blood, we secure a continuity of therapeutic impressions, corresponding to the continuity of the morbid impressions to be combatted. On this ground, I justify the practice so common in the Homœopathic school—of giving coffee and some other vital antidotes, in large quantities, at the commencement of the treatment, in cases where poison has been recently taken.

But this principle does not justify the administration, either of large or frequently repeated doses in ordinary diseases, however violent. The action of a large quantity of poison, still entering, or just introduced, into the circulation, may be compared to that which gravitation exerts on a falling body. The earth acts on the body every instant, and accelerates its descent, unless resisted every instant. On the other hand, ordinary diseases, originating in a primitive morbid impression, may be compared to the action of a blow which rolls a ball along a smooth horizontal plane. By a single blow in the opposite direction, the ball may be retarded, and no subsequent acceleration can take place without a new impression; and the ball may be stopped by repeated and small blows given at long intervals.

This simple illustration suffices for the object I had in view, and with those who know, that in therapeutics, forces primarily parallel and in the same direction are virtually antagonistic. But were my object to enlighten an antipathist, in regard to the great Homœopathic law, that one impression weakens the effect of a similar one, I might consider the force which is ultimately to act in arresting the ball, to be at each application of it first applied to a spring, and applied in the same direction in which the ball is moving. The reaction of the spring is in a direction opposite to the motion of the ball, and resists it. To represent the force as applied through such a medium, has another advantage; it illustrates the continued action of a single dose, and the reason why frequent repetitions are unnecessary in ordinary diseases. The spring—which here represents the reaction of the vital forces

—exerts for a considerable time its antagonistic action.

[I have stated one case for the administration of large doses; another is that of apparent or approximate death, from a poison or other sudden impression. I shall consider this in another place.]

But suppose the poison once neutralized or evacuated, or both, what is our duty then? What will be done by a true Homœopathic physician? In other words, what will be done by any physician who understands the true principles of the healing art? He will endeavor to remove, by appropriate Homœopathic medicines, the morbid actions which the poison has excited in the living organism. In effecting this, he will not ordinarily resort to large doses, or even to crude drugs, in any dose; for he has learned that small doses and the peculiar preparations of the Homœopathic school, are in general vastly superior in their efficiency as well as in their safety.

Does any sceptical bystander ridicule the proposed means as evidently inadequate to the end, on account of the disparity between the mass of the medicine and that of the human body; or is the physician himself disturbed by a similar a priori doubt, when about to administer an inconceivably small quantity of matter to remove active inflammation, violent spasms or agonizing pains? Is he tempted to doubt whether it is not contrary to all the analogies of nature, to suppose that so minute and ethereal an agent, can act efficiently on a hundred and fifty pounds of matter, or on any one ounce of it?

The answer is at hand. In the case of light, caloric or electricity—whatever physical theory we adopt in relation to their nature—there is a material agent, which in imponderable doses is capable of powerful action on the same gross and weighty human body. Whether we adopt the hypothesis of the emission of particles, or that of the undulations of an elastic medium, in either case, the agent is material, and so comminuted or rare, that it would be impossible to weigh with the most delicate balance a decillion of grains of the emitted particles, or a mass of the elastic fluid as large as the terraqueous globe. These particles or this fluid must, in the case of heat and electricity, penetrate with great freedom the pores of iron and gold, and, in the case of light, the pores of glass and diamond.

To reject the teachings of Homœopathic experience on such a speculative ground, as

the presumed impossibility that minute doses of an attenuated medicine can act on such great and gross bodies as ours, would be like the reasoning and conduct of a man, who should say to his friend, You need not fear to keep your bare hand almost in contact with a bushel of intensely ignited coal, nor to gaze at the meridian sun in a clear sky, with your inflamed eyes. In either case, the size and weight of your body will perfectly secure you; for I have ascertained that the weight of the matter that would enter your system in a whole day, is less than that of the highest attenuation which the most visionary Homœopathist ever administered in the pores of a grain of dry sugar of milk.

Now the physical facts stated by this theorist are perfectly true; but his practical conclusions are utterly false; as every child knows, from sheer experience. Such conclusions would only be worthy of a closet philosopher, who had lived since his infancy in a cell destitute of windows and fire, and lighted with the faint flame of an inaccessible lamp.

In like manner, our closet speculator—with perfectly just ideas in regard to the weight of electricity—having learned—what is indeed the fact—that a thunderbolt is much lighter than the smallest dose of Homœopathic medicine ever employed, might very consistently venture to receive through his body, the shock of the most powerful electrical battery, or stand during every thunder-storm, with an unfinished lightning-rod resting on his head. Imagine the rod to be complete except at the lower part, where it terminates in the room five feet above the floor, and is eked out by the erect body of our consistent Allopathic philosopher.

If it is obviously preposterous to deny the power of light, caloric and electricity, in defiance of experience, how can it be reasonable to deny the power of the Homœopathic doses and preparations, in defiance of experience? The medicinal portion of these preparations, differs from crude matter, in some degree of approach towards these imponderable agents, in respect to their rarity and the minuteness of their parts. The molecules of the imponderable agents must be inconceivably minute; and on this minute division their activity probably depends. But our belief in the fact of their activity is founded on experience. The teachings of this experience in regard to them, no sane man rejects. With such analogies to remove the a priori improbability of the ac-

tivity of minute portions of matter in a minutely divided state, why should a sane man reject the abundant proofs which experience furnishes, that the Homœopathic preparations possess great activity, and are capable of controlling violent diseases, and antidoting virulent poisons? The a priori improbability being removed, we are left at liberty—nay we are compelled—to admit the testimony of experience in regard to the power of Homœopathic doses and preparations, just as unhesitatingly as we do the same testimony in relation to the above mentioned transcendently active agents of nature. Why then should we generally administer large doses, if experience has proved that small ones are more safe and generally more efficient?

I will anticipate one objection which may be raised against this doctrine, in its application to cases of poisoning. It may be said, you have removed the poison from the stomach and intestines, but not from the blood. Do you expect to antidote and combat, by your infinitesimal doses, the poison which may be circulating in the vascular system? To this I have three answers. First, The chemical antidote, previously administered, is also soluble and susceptible of being received into the blood. It is circulating in the blood-vessels as truly as the poison; and if it has been administered in the requisite quantities, it is there meeting the poison in the interior of all the organs, and there exerting the requisite chemical power. Secondly, I have supposed the vital antidote to have been given in large or in frequently-repeated doses, for a few minutes or hours, whilst any considerable quantity of the poison remained in the blood. This will not be for a long time, as nature effectually strives to eliminate these foreign substances. Thirdly, The chemical and the vital antidotes to a poison are rarely identical, and ordinarily very dissimilar. Consequently, if we give the chemical antidote in ever so large quantities beyond what is necessary to neutralize the poison, we thereby do nothing towards enabling us to dispense with the vital antidote; and on the other hand, if we give the vital antidote in ever so large doses beyond what is necessary to correct the morbid affections of the living organism, we thereby do nothing at all either towards neutralizing or removing the poison which is circulating in the blood-vessels, any more than we should if it were still in the stomach or intestines. The chemical and vital antidotes cannot per-

form functions which are vicarious to each other.

Experience has demonstrated, that in almost every case—especially where there is not a continual repetition of the morbid action—the vital antidotes act best in exceedingly small doses. One exception is admissible; that is where the excitability is nearly or entirely suspended in a sudden manner; as in cases of apparent death from lightning, when the nervous energy has been suddenly exhausted by this external cause, or in cases of drowning, strangulation or other cases of sudden asphyxia of an external or mechanical origin. It is the property of true medicines to act on life, but not on a dead body. In many of these cases of incipient or apparent death, the first object to be attained is a mechanical one, (like vomiting to remove a poison) and our first object is to employ means which will excite certain muscular actions. In asphyxia from the above causes, life will often be restored, provided we can only restore the mechanical actions of respiration. These will be followed by the chemical actions producing the arterialization of the blood, and the chemical actions will be followed by that degree of vitality which will reproduce the mechanical actions, and thus restore the whole function, which will then be carried on spontaneously. Now in this series, the primary mechanical actions must be artificially excited, and the physician is operating in the capacity of a mechanic. He for a moment, lays aside his peculiar and more transcendental prerogative, as an engineer for regulating the vital forces by the appropriate delicate agencies, in order to give the engine a start by a coarser lever. Now this may often be done by inflating the lungs, by reciprocating movements of the ribs, by electricity, frictions and stimulating applications. It is no disparagement to Homœopathic therapeutics, that it cannot, like electricity, produce muscular action in a dead body. Yet these mechanical actions may be essential to resuscitation, after which the Homœopathic medicines are the most efficient agents for restoring the patient to health. A similar reason for large doses may exist in certain cases of insensibility, or of partial death from some kinds of poison.

But does this justify the resort to large doses in cases of apparently approaching or incipient death from ordinary disease? It does not. For in this case, the vital powers

are weakened by a previous and often a remote morbid impression. If an Allopathic dose be given, it may either accelerate or retard the death a few minutes or a few hours, but it will in either case render the death more certain. If a large Homœopathic dose be given, it will render the death both more speedy and more sure. I am willing to have such practices judged with exclusive reference to the good of the patient, and to waive all considerations of policy and of regard to the reputation of our glorious and beneficent system. But I will say, that to resort to any other than proper Homœopathic treatment, merely because a case is desperate, is to give the false impression that large doses and crude drugs are more efficacious than the small doses and the potentized preparations of Homœopathia. If they were so, they should have been given earlier, and not when, at best, they can but tantalize with a hope to be presently extinguished in despair and death.

As to large doses in general, they are indeed capable of producing effects which small doses ordinarily will not. For example, they can excite violent purging, vomiting, sweating and other morbidly excessive excretions. But these effects are worse than useless. The most common apology is the expulsion of bad or excessive bile and other vitiated secretions, which the physician imagines in the stomach and bowels. The patient is especially warned that these will accumulate if there is the least constipation. To be convinced of the utter falsity of this doctrine, he has only to try the experiment under Homœopathic treatment. It may require a little time to remove by Homœopathic treatment the constipated habit; but during this time, the patient observes that his excretions are vastly more natural in character and vastly freer from any excess of bile or vitiated matter, than when he took cathartics and emetics. Every Homœopathic physician knows, that when the constipation has continued for many days, the stools are usually of a healthy character. He generally allows constipation to continue from four to seven days after accouchement, and finds the stools to have a better character, and the patient a better recovery, than when the evacuation takes place in two or three days, whether spontaneously or by a cathartic. In cases of small pox, I have known the constipation continue fifteen and twenty-two days, and be followed by perfect stools and a good recovery. The convalescence commenced

before the evacuations, and were not caused by them. I have known no injury from such a course in any instance.

The effects of overloading the stomach—even with undigestible food—can in almost every instance be best obviated by Homœopathic treatment with small doses. Large doses of ordinary domestic coffee—which, in a single dose, has a less permanent action than most other drugs—is sometimes resorted to in such cases. I have not found it necessary, but cases may arise which will justify its use.

As to hard substances accidentally swallowed, or taken with the food—such as small coin and buttons, and huge quantities of cherry stones—emetics and cathartics are admissible, as in cases of poisoning. But the Homœopathic physician will in such cases prefer tepid water, and other evacuants which are but slightly medicinal.

Another enquiry of some importance in relation to the boundaries of the Homœopathic art, i. e. of medicine proper, is that which relates to the appropriate limitation of surgery. Time does not now allow me to give this a full examination. I shall, as in the case of the preceding topics, content myself with a few hints.

Surgery has its uses and abuses. There will always be cases requiring mechanical treatment. For example, fractures and dislocations can neither be prevented nor cured by Homœopathic treatment; though after the replacement of the parts, it is a useful auxiliary; indeed as to the removal of the disease proper, it is our sole reliance. The wounds of large arteries present a similar case.

Another class of cases, are surgical in their existing state, but they might have been prevented by appropriate Homœopathic treatment. For example, large urinary calculi, and the last stage of aneurisms of some large arteries.

There is another class of cases, which do not belong properly to surgery in any stage; but which the Allopathic school has generally treated, either wholly or in part, by external or mechanical means—means which belong to and characterize the province of surgery. To this class belong most cases of ophthalmia, schirrus, cancer, and a great variety of ulcers. Though the surgeon has not always neglected constitutional treatment, it has generally been the extremely defective treatment of the Allopathic school. The re-

sults of this have been often so unsatisfactory, that he has relied much on surgery proper, and employed various external and mechanical means, including the use of the knife. How many useless incisions, excisions and mutilations are there not chargeable to a defective system of medical treatment?

Homœopathia, in its present state, could obviate by far the greater part of surgery; and it is destined to obviate nearly the whole. Homœopathia will do far more than supply its place. Dr. Mott, my respected instructor in surgery, was in the habit of saying, "There is more honor in saving a limb than in amputating it." This honour will be especially awarded to Hahnemann and the Homœopathic physicians. Homœopathia will in time put an end to most mutilations for disease, whether they be the removal of limbs, of breasts, of tonsils or of uvulæ. Not only the destruction of useful parts, but the frequent abbreviation of life itself by their removal, is chargeable to rejection of the beneficent system founded by Hahnemann. Statistics show that the average duration of life among those affected with schirrus and cancer, is shortened by operations—that those on whom excision is practiced, die sooner than those who submit to no operation. Most local diseases, so called, are really general; most surgical diseases, so called, are really medical. When the medical profession shall have generally appreciated these truths, and adopted the Homœopathic art of healing, the average duration of human life will be greatly increased.

B. F. JOSLIN.

New York, June 15, 1848.

ON THE MEDICINAL VIRTUES OF CALCAREA CARBONICA.

Read before the "Société Hahnemannienne."

BY DR. CROSERIO.

The *Calcarea Carbonica* of Hahnemann is a substance almost completely excluded, by modern physicians, from the *Materia Medica*. The school entitled Physiological, (Broussais,) uncertain whether to place it in the class of stimulants or of debilitants, has preferred to determine its utility from its physical and chemical qualities only, thus limiting its employment to external applications as an astringent and antiseptic. The ancients, however, had perceived its efficacy in a large

number of diseases; in acidity of the stomach, in chronic diarrhœa, in intermittent fever, with congestion of the liver and spleen, in leucophlegmasia, in scorbutus, urinary calculus, gravel, skin diseases, itch, phthisis pulmonalis, internal ulcerations of the kidneys and bladder, in scrofula, in excessive secretion of milk, in leucorrhœa, in ulcerations of the neck of the uterus, and of the extremities, in congestion of the joints. Among the proofs of the dynamic effects of Calcareæ upon the living body, we may include the serious affections often produced by inhabiting newly-built houses, (which cannot all be attributed to the moisture;) these effects, as related by Desbois de Rochefort, agree very well with those observed in the pure observations of Hahnemann: sneezing, frequent cough, slight affections of the throat, with constrictions of the gullet, inclination to vomit, colic, diarrhœa, dysentery, constriction of the chest, and especially paralysis. We have seen a patient affected, from the same cause, with a number of cold abscesses in different parts of the body. The diseases to which individuals engaged in working in calcareous ground are subject, described by Ramazzini, likewise agree with the pure symptoms of Calcareæ. These are, tubercular concretions observed in the lungs after death, or expectorated, violent cholæ of the stomach and intestines, dryness of the mouth, trembling, paratysis, obstinate constipation, contraction of the throat, diarrhœa, difficult micuriuion, itching, dryness of the skin, &c. These various diseases, produced by the prolonged action of lime, can no more be attributed to any physical or chemical action upon the humors, than jaundice produced by an attack of anger.

The observations of Morton, Willis, Batens, Bulé, and other medical men on the employment of lime, either empirically or according to some supposed ideas respecting its chemical action on the animal humors, are remarkable, as all the curative effects observed by them are an exact expression of the Homœopathic law, as shown by direct experiment. Of this we may be easily convinced, for the number of symptoms furnished by Calcareæ perfectly represent all the different kinds of ailments in which it has proved useful. Thus, Hippocrates, recommended lime in chronic diarrhœa, on account of its astringent quality, and in the memoirs of the Academy of Medicine, Grangier relates several observations of its utility in that disease; among others, that

of a soldier exhausted by dissipation, affected with hemorrhoids and worms, with stools sometimes mucous, sometimes sanguineous, sometimes purulent, and reduced to a state of complete marasmus, with an earthy skin, &c, who had resisted all methods of treatment, and was cured in three weeks by the internal employment of lime water. Having remarked that blood mixed with lime water did not putrify so rapidly, Robert, Morton, Pringle, and Macbride recommended it in putrid fevers, hectic fevers, and marasmus. We know that in the symptoms of Calcareæ, some of the phases of these diseases are perfectly represented. This antiseptic action has also caused it to be recommended in atonic ulcers. Macauley relates, in the memoirs of the London Medical Society, the cure of an enormous ulcer of the leg, with swelling of the limb, which had resisted twenty years of treatment by the internal use of lime. Baumbauch relates the cure of a cancer of the breast, obtained by lime water used internally, in consequence of its supposed antiseptic virtues.

But the most frequent employment of lime water is that which has been derived from its chemical action in urinary calculi. Whytt, Butler, and other experimenters, observed that calculi were destroyed in lime water, and that even the urine of such as had swallowed a quantity of it reduced to a sort of a jelly a calculus immersed in it. From these facts, all authors, up to very lately, who have written on urinary calculi, have recommended lime water as the best lithotriptic. The celebrated Sir Robert Walpole is said to have owed, to its continued use, relief from all the sufferings occasioned by a stone in the bladder.

De Haen, Willis, Adam, and a vast number of other authors affirm, that though they have not been able to obtain the removal of the stone by its use, they have, nevertheless, found it to produce a cessation of the symptoms caused by its presence in the bladder. This testimony of so many medical men, who have employed this remedy, proves the reality of the dynamic action of lime on the urinary organs. Butler, indeed, says, that during the first days of the employment of lime water the sufferings of the patient increase. They thus experience a true Homœopathic aggravation. He observed that the patients passed a thick, dark-colored urine, similar to an infusion of coffee. The nephritic pains pro-

duced by gravel were also cured by the use of this remedy for a sufficient length of time. Willis relates a remarkable example of this.

This action of lime water on urinary concretions led to the idea that it might be also useful in those produced by gout and rheumatism. Macbride and Whytt observed that if it did not entirely cure the gout, it rendered the fits less frequent, and less severe—and that it relieved the patients from affections of the digestive organs, more especially of acidity from which they suffered. Benjamin Bell recommended lime water in caries of the bones.

The alkaline nature of calcareous earth is the cause of its being used in acidity of the *primæ viæ*. Pringle and Macbride, moreover, have recommended it in weakness of the stomach. Its pathogenetic effects correspond to all these symptoms.

Gaubius relates, that a man, after swallowing some crabs' eyes, was attacked with a swelling of the face and red spots all over the body.

Hahnemann, in subjecting *Calcarea* to direct experiment, has really enriched the *Materia Medica* with one of the most energetic powers, and furnishing us with the means of determining the numerous cases of disease in which it may be employed with success, in spite of the neglect into which it had fallen among modern physicians. We shall now proceed to run over these cases, according to their pathogenetic symptoms, and give the result of clinical experience.

Symptoms 1586 to 1600 express a deep alteration in the arterial capillary system, and in the vital force, by want of internal heat, and the excessive susceptibility to cold. Symptom 1616 confirms this particular action by the continual excessive sweats on the least movement.

Symptoms 1475 to 1477, by the production of excrescences on the surface of the skin show a special action of *Calcarea* on the functions of nutrition of that organ, and its power to cause the development of its tissue.

Symptom 1177 shows a similar action on the osseous system. Symptoms 1435-44 indicate excessive weakness, 1432-34 tendency to syncope and actual syncope. All these symptoms demonstrate the efficacy of this remedy in diseases of the elementary tissues of the organism which preside over the nutrition and growth of the body. To this property it is indebted for its usefulness in the ages of

infancy and youth, in affections of the glandular and lymphatic systems, in excrescences and tumors produced by the development of abnormal tissues, in diseases of the bones, rachitis, and vices of conformation. Thus, in infants, when the development of the organism during dentition goes on irregularly, too slowly, or is accompanied with sympathetic sufferings, carbonate of lime has been found useful in an immense number of these cases. When the development of the osseous system is too slow—when the fontanelles remain open—when the long bones bend, or their extremities become swollen—when the child shows weakness of the limbs and loins, and can scarcely sustain the weight of its body, or walk, *Calcarea*, after a dose of *Sulphur*, is of great utility.

A young lad, aged fifteen, extremely psoric, had remained exceedingly small and thin; his limbs were very slight, and his head too large for the rest of his body. He suffered from violent headaches when making any mental exertion; in his childhood he had suffered from feebleness of the limbs; he was very timid, especially at night; he could not bear to be left alone in the dark. Two doses of *Calcarea*, at forty-five days' interval, after one dose of *Sulphur*, brought about such a favorable change in his constitution, that, in six months, his height, which had hitherto increased only from six to eight lines per annum, gained four inches; his limbs, the hands and feet in particular, had become large and strong, like those of a young man who would grow to the ordinary height.

My friend, Dr. Luther, related to me a case of a girl seven years of age affected with cyanosis, who presented all the appearance of abnormal permeability of the ductus arteriosus, from the difficulty of breathing, the irregularity of the circulation, the blue discoloration of all the skin, &c. The medicines employed according to the symptoms present had little effect on the principal disease; a globule of the 30th dilution of *Calcarea*, effected a radical cure in six weeks, probably by restoring the abnormal part to its proper state.

The cure of lupus which has been effected by several Homœopaths, and of which I have just had a remarkable case in a girl of twenty years, who suffered at the same time from constipation and weakness of the stomach, with excessive catamenia, is another proof of the action of this substance on the reproduc-

tive system, to which alone are referrible the production of those superfetations of abnormal tissues, mentioned in symptoms 1475--77. Kretschmar has succeeded in curing condylomata and warts with *Calcarea*.

A symptom which indicates its action on the capillary system is excessive thirst and hunger, represented by symptoms 563--80

The symptoms of swelling of the glands, 445--7, 765--72, 1178, 1181--4, demonstrate its action on the lymphatic system and its utility in scrofulous diseases. This specificity of action on the system of nutrition indicates its general usefulness in the age of development, in diseases accompanied by excessive emaciation or obesity.

Symptoms 954--85, 1123-28, which show such remarkable effects on the female organs of generation prove its efficacy in diseases of this sex.

Judging from the symptoms we have above enumerated, nervous and lymphatic constitutions appear to be best suited to the action of *Calcarea*.

Having finished the consideration of the general phenomena produced by the action of *Calcarea*, we shall now proceed to examine the particular organs to which we find, from the symptoms detailed in the *Materia Medica*, it has an affinity, and the diseases to which they correspond, and also the cases of cure related by various observers as having been effected by *Calcarea*.

It has a powerful action on the dermoid system. Symptoms 219--35, 237, 340--42, 374, 409, 416-23, 432-43, 1122, 1168--69, 1255--60, 1300--5, 1349--55, 1459--73. Symptoms of various kinds of itching and eruptions on different parts of the body are a proof of this. This remedy has, however, been little used in such affections. I had once an opportunity of observing remarkable effects in a case of dry ring-worm, with swelling of the glands of the neck and mesentery where I succeeded, by means of it only, repeated once a month, in producing a complete cure in four months. A case of excessive itching in the scrotum and perineum, with severe hemorrhoidal affection, was cured by a single dose of *Calc.* It is generally suitable in dry skin diseases accompanied with itching.

Calcarea has many symptoms belonging to the nervous system; symptoms 291, 399, 400, 518, 1170, 1172, 1244, 1249, 1332, 1344, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1417--19, 1422, 1423, 1426, 1430, 1444, 1445, are very characteristic, more es-

pecially the last. The cure of chorea mentioned by Rummel should be referred chiefly to its specific action on the diseases of adolescence.* I once saw a case of a young girl of seven years, of fair complexion and lively disposition, who was cured in four weeks of a chorea which had lasted six months by *Bell.*, *Cin.*, and *Calc.* Dr. Rueckert cured an epileptic with a single dose of this remedy, which is particularly recommended by Hahnemann in this disease from symptom 1445, above referred to.

Calcarea has a very well marked action on chronic headaches, reproduced, excited, or augmented by intellectual labor, as I have had opportunities of confirming by experience. Hartlaub observed that it was useful when the headache appeared on making pressure on the top of the head, and was aggravated by the open air, or when it consisted in a drawing pain in the forehead, with cold of that part, or in shootings in the right side of the head, with painful sensibility to the touch.

Calcarea is a valuable remedy in diseases of the eyes; it possesses, like *Belladonna* and *Sulphur*, a special action on the different forms of inflammation on these organs and their consequences, and in the symptoms of the vision, especially in scrofulous subjects affected with glandular swellings. The numerous and very remarkable symptoms 238-316 show distinctly its effects, among which we should notice the cure of ophthalmia produced by bodies introduced into the eye. I have three times had opportunities of verifying its efficacy in cases of throbbing in the eye or eyebrow, with or without headache of a similar nature.

Symptoms 396--405 would induce us to believe it to be useful in neuralgia of the face. I experienced its beneficial effects in an agonizing supraorbital neuralgia, whose return it entirely prevented; in this case its action was, in all probability, so favorable, because this neuralgia had the peculiarity of always coming on after using milk for some time, which is characteristic of *Calcarea*. Two hours after taking the remedy, I experienced for ten minutes the same kind of sensations as were produced by the disease, but in a very slight degree, and not even painful. Since then I have never had any traces of this horrible complaint.

* Symptoms 1396-7-8 show a power of producing those muscular movements characteristic of chorea.

Calcareea is a powerful medicine in chronic affections of the ear, especially of the hearing, (symptoms 317-63 are very well marked) it is, accordingly, one of the most useful medicines in deafness in the hands of Homœopaths: Kretschmar cured, by means of it, a polypus of the auditory canal.

The disagreeable and obstinate symptom of swelling of the upper lip, which we observe in children of scrofulous constitution, I once found to yield to the action of Calcareea. Hartlaub also saw it succeed where the swelling of the lip was accompanied by swelling of the point of the nose, with scabs in its interior.

Its action on the glands may account for its utility in goitre.

We have already spoken of its action on the digestive organs, in which it is so valuable a remedy. Hartlaub found it useful in a case of pyrosis, occurring before and after eating, especially after sweet things; and when the eructation of water took place only after eating, and was accompanied by vomiting of the food; in tendency to imperfect eructations; pain in the right side of the abdomen, and shootings in the lower part of the abdomen in children, without appetite and without liveliness; in constant eructations after meals; pressure in the stomach, frequent risings, especially when the stomach is empty; at the same time periodical anxiety, bad humor, vertigo, palpitation of the heart, constipation for several days, want of appetite and emaciation; in chronic spasmodic affections of the stomach, with vomiting of food, and bitter mucus, and with diarrhœa of yellow fœces. In a case of chronic gastralgia, the administration of Calcareea was followed by vomiting of a large quantity of pus, whereby the patient was cured, thus leading us to suppose that it may be useful in internal abscesses.

It is specific in swelling of the mesenteric glands in children, and in the diarrhœa which accompanies dentition. Although our illustrious master has said that the diarrhœa of Calcareea appears to be the effect of the largest doses, this remedy does not appear to be less valuable in chronic diarrhœa with ulceration of the intestines and marasmus, and in that accompanying pulmonary phthisis. However, Calcareea is most suitable in obstinate constipation. The symptoms 820-8, 834-7, 841-66, demonstrate too clearly its effects on the termination of the intestinal canal, to per-

mit us to doubt its great utility in diseases of this region.

The numerous symptoms produced by Calcareea on the urinary organs lead us to presume that it should be useful in catarrh of the bladder. Kretschmar saw it cure a polypus of the mucous membrane of this organ. Under its action the patient passed by the urethra several masses of polypi, together amounting to the size of a hen's egg. I know not whether Homœopaths have already tried it in vesical calculus; it is probable it would at least mitigate the sufferings of the patient, as has been found to be the case in the Allopathic treatment, by lime water internally. There would, however, be no danger of poisoning the patient, as happened to Bettahen in his experiments on the lithotropic virtue of lime water.

The female genital system is affected by this medicine in a peculiar manner, as I have before remarked; and when the menses are too abundant, too early, and preceded by violent colic, we have in Calcareea a powerful remedy, as Hahnemann observed, and as daily experience confirms. An uterine hemorrhage in a young girl affected with tubercular phthisis, which recurred on the least movement, and on the slightest emotion, which *Sabina*, *Secale*, and *Chamomilla* had only temporarily arrested, was permanently cured by a dose of Calcareea, whilst the other symptoms of phthisis were at the same time ameliorated.

When the menses are too abundant and weaken the constitution, Calcareea, alternated with *Nux vomica* in the interval between the periods, generally restores that function to its normal state.

Homœopaths have often found it of use in the leucorrhœa of leucophlegmatic individuals whose catamenia are too abundant.

When there is not a sufficient supply of milk in the breasts of nurses, if there exists no organic morbid cause for this fault, the administration of Carbonate of Lime is always followed by a more abundant and normal secretion.

Symptom 1052.—“The cough becomes loose, and entire masses like pure pus are expectorated,”* indicates its efficacy in certain cases of tubercular phthisis, which experience has confirmed.

We may observe that this symptom belongs to the proving of *Calcareea Acetica*, and not of *Calcareea Carbonica*,

The extreme sensibility to cold and the symptoms of catarrh show its utility in persons subject to catarrh from a chill; and to this property of *Calcarea* I partly owe the re-establishment of my health.

Symptom 1104—Dull blows from the posterior wall of the chest upwards to between the scapulæ, isochronous with the beat of the heart, with great anxiety,* expresses the symptoms of aneurism of the thoracic artery or of the heart so exactly, that it cannot fail to be useful in some cases of this disease, especially when we connect this symptom with those of the heart itself. "Palpitation, anxiety, spasmodic contraction, pressive and drawing pain in the heart, oppression in its movements," &c.

A patient who presented symptoms of hypertrophy of the heart, and who had been treated for this disease by the first Allopaths of Paris for two years without benefit, had attained a great degree of obesity, and milk did not agree with him. He was much improved by repeated doses of *Calcarea*; *Spigelia* completed the cure. These considerations induce me to direct your attention to this remedy in cases of aneurism; œdema of the extremities would be an indication for its employment in such diseases.

The action of *Calcarea* in caries, which has been already discovered empirically by Allopathists, has been confirmed in its rational Homœopathic employment, as also in atonic and fistulous ulcers. Its specific action on the bones is particularly manifested in the weakness of the extremities in children and in the abnormal configuration of the long bones in these subjects, in rachitis and club-foot, and in spontaneous dislocation, instances of the cure of which are abundantly supplied by our periodical literature.

As we have before remarked, Allopathy has employed *Calcarea* with success in obstinate intermittent fevers with abdominal obstructions: Homœopathy, instructed by the febrile symptoms produced by this remedy, has fixed more precisely the cases in which it is useful. Harlaub recommends it in those fevers in which the attack commences in the afternoon, where the hot stage is not preceded by rigors, or when it predominates without thirst, with weakness and cold in the hands during the heat.

The moral character indicated by *Calcarea*,

fearfulness, inquietude; taciturnity, bad humor, apathy, indisposition for labor, shows its utility in affections of the mind, when the patients constantly imagine themselves the objects of persecutions, or when they are convinced some misfortune is about to happen. If we may judge from the *ensemble* of these symptoms, *Calcarea* seems to be especially suited for nervous, delicate, weak or excitable constitutions.

Having thus touched upon the principal diseases in which *Calcarea* is useful, for I am far from thinking the picture complete, I shall merely add that its action is best shown after sulphur or nitric acid; consequently in some cases of chronic disease, it is useful to give beforehand one of these two remedies, although they may not be so Homœopathic as itself.

Hahnemann asserts that this remedy is often as hurtful when repeated, as the first dose of it was useful; consequently we should let it exhaust its beneficial action before passing to another remedy. This remark has been too often verified in our own practice to allow us to lose sight of it, like everything else relating to practical matters, proceeding from the pen of this great man.

I shall terminate this by a last advice, and that is, to exercise prudence in its administration. This remedy is one of the most energetic, and in spite of its peculiar adaptation for infantile diseases, we should be very circumspect in our doses, especially at that period of life and in old age, for even at the end of six weeks it often produces very violent primitive symptoms, which might be attended with danger if the doses given were too strong.

This medicine is peculiarly adapted for the practice of attenuating, so to say, the solution of the globule in several glasses of water consecutively, as was the practice of our great master. With respect to the duration of the action of *Calcarea*, it is very long. When it is very homœopathic we may look for salutary effects for six weeks, and longer.

Calcarea is nearly related, as regards its dynamic properties to *Belladonna*. There are no two remedies in the whole *Materia Medica* which resemble each other so closely; so when *Belladonna* appears very homœopathic, and yet does no good, we may be sure of *Calcarea* succeeding, and *vice versa*.

* This symptom also belongs to *Calcarea Acetica*.

For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISEASE.

Accustomed to use the word "philosophy" only in a sense adapted to the teaching of the modern inductive school, I have come to apply it but sparingly to the speculative branches of human science. Nosology has been, to some considerable extent, esteemed an exact science, whilst practical medicine has been and still is one of the most *speculative* branches of the Allopathic science of medicine. In Homœopathy we are presented with an accurate and truly philosophical system of practical medicine; whilst a field for speculation is still afforded in the *Philosophy of Disease*. Yet it is not all speculation; there is much that is now rendered *certain*, that was before but the subject of conjecture. The Inductive system of reasoning—a *primis ad posteriores*—may sometimes be safely departed from, and the very opposite course adopted. Hence a *posteriori* reasoning is sometimes entirely satisfactory, and is the only form of argument the particular case will admit of.

This is emphatically the case, when we attempt to get at the nature and causes of disease; especially that which is of a constitutional character. Thus, the fact that in certain districts of country, people are liable to peculiar diseases, leads to the conclusion that there is some invisible, intangible substance, which occasions this disturbance of the human organism—which has received the name of *miasma*. What it is, no one can safely affirm; but we infer a *cause* from the effect. In *constitutional* disease, in general, this principle is applied. Thus, we behold a person of mature years, without any known present cause, die of the same disease of the lungs with which his father or mother had died, years before; and we infer the existence of a peculiar constitutional taint. And yet, in this case, neither physiological signs, or chemical analysis, can often detect the least peculiarity. We deduce a cause from the obvious effect. This, in the new school, is likewise denominated a *miasma*. The reasoning upon which such title is based I do not propose to go into; but it is not left to mere speculation, but is founded on the strongest chain of a *posteriori*, as well as analogical reasoning. I may mention, as among the strongest points in this reasoning, that persons, undoubtedly free from the constitutional taint, often acquire the very same disease, and that, too, from the reper-

cussion of certain eruptions acquired, without inoculation, but by the mere presence or vicinity of the diseased person. This is established by Hahnemann by a chain of *facts* entirely too strong to admit of a reasonable doubt.

In addition, I will mention a confirmatory fact, within my own personal knowledge. It is the case of a highly respectable and liberally educated gentleman, of the legal profession. In childhood he had the *itch*, which was plastered and annointed in every possible way. It had finally become a serious disease, when *Sulphur*, (I think in spirits,) was used both internally and externally. Under this treatment the disease yielded. But recently—perhaps twenty-five years afterward—he was greatly troubled with what was called *salt rheum*. It became exceedingly troublesome; and when it would partially disappear he was taken quite unwell. At last the old itch occurred to his mind; he resorted to the Sulphur, and the eruption very soon began to disappear and his health was restored. This is mentioned not as a proof of all of Hahnemann's doctrine, but as confirmatory of certain parts. In mentioning to this gentleman Hahnemann's doctrine about cutaneous diseases, with which he was wholly unacquainted, he at once discovered the relevancy of his own experience, and was much surprised, having been a good deal prejudiced against Homœopathy.

I have above only indicated the process by which we arrive at the *causes* of disease, or at any knowledge of them. The facts of Homœopathy, taken together with all the recorded experience of the medical profession, now clearly negative certain things. They positively prove that disease is an incubus or terrible something superadded to the system, and which may be purged, sweated, blistered or bled away. And yet they do not prove that these processes *may not* sometimes be followed by entire convalescence in some strictly *acute* diseases. Now, it has been seen that the purging, puking and sweating, and various other processes of many years, cannot drive from the system the virus of itch. Similar remarks might be made of others. It has been shown that the vile discharges occasioned by calomel and other drugs are not the departing disease, but the effects of the so-called medicine itself.

Then, the question has arisen, what is disease? We answer, that it is not a substance,

an organism—but an abnormal *action* or *state* of the system or some of its parts. If this be true—and it seems to be an inevitable conclusion, from recent developments—then the just application of the term *dynamic*, (signifying power or force,) is sufficiently obvious. Hence to speak of diseases as occasioned by “dynamic causes,” is only to say that they are occasioned by causes calculated to disturb or disarrange the dynamism or forces of the system.

Here we arrive at no common speculative theory; but use a philosophical term broad enough to cover all the known facts. It allows room for the most powerful dose of active drugs to produce a violent effect, whilst it at the same time admits of the more volatile and diffusible poisons producing, almost instantaneously, equally violent effects, in exceedingly small quantities.

We are now prepared to see most clearly how important may be the mere habits of life—how absence of exercise, or sitting in a particular posture, may permanently affect the health. It is not that they superadd something foreign to the system, but derange its dynamism.

But it is in contemplating the known facts in relation to the operation of the minute dilutions of medicines, that this new and expanded view of the nature of diseases is rendered the only one possible. Here we behold a disease utterly eradicated, by the action of a dose of medicine, which adds an utterly inappreciable amount of matter to the system. But the subtle *forces* of the system are affected in their *action*, and the deranged force corrected. When this is freely done, and then only is there said to be a cure.

Milwaukie, July, 1848.

H. C. K.

HOMŒOPATHY IN GERMANY.

AUSTRIA.

It is boasted of the medical academies in Austria, that not only are they distinguished as schools, but that those educated in them do honor to them; if this be true, then must the empire reckon not only the largest number of sceptics, but also the largest number of Homœopaths, according to the impartial spirit or prejudice, the intelligence or the reverse of individuals, exclusive of the common herd, who cannot go beyond the *verba magistri*. The history of Homœopathy in Austria is remarkable and instructive. Pursuant to a decree of the late Emperor Francis, of the 8th February, 1837, free exercise of the new sys-

tem was permitted, which had previously been forbidden, at the suggestion of the body physician Siiffi, on the 21st October, 1819. At present there exists no hindrance to the free practice of Homœopathy; the dispensing of medicines by physicians is allowed by law, and several Homœopathic Hospitals are flourishing in various provinces.

Among the physicians of Vienna, who are distinguished by their excellence in, and enthusiasm for, Homœopathy, we may mention Drs. Arneth, Bohm, Braun, Fleischmann, physician to the Gumpendorf Hospital, Frohlich, Gerstel, Glucker, Gnadiger, Gorstel, Hampe, physician to Prince Lichtenstein, Hirsch, Landsmann, von Lichtenfels, Lederer who had the honor to treat the Princess Mary of France, Lowe, Marenzeller staff-physician, one of the first and most celebrated Homœopathic physicians, Maschauer, Menz, Montbel, Muller, Nehrer, (now in Presburg,) Pleyel von Pleyburg, Polatsek, Puffer, Reisinger, Richter, Rothansl, Schlesinger, Schmelzer, Schmid, Schaffer, Schultz, Schwarz, Sigel, Sterz, Streinz, Schwierzina, Tedesko, Professor Veith, Vrecha, Wachtel, Watzke, Weber, Weinke, Wurda, Wurmb, Wurstel, Zlatarowich Imperial Counsellor and Professor.

Besides these, there are in Austria—Drs. Bergmann, Huber, Pleninger imperial district surgeon, and Reuss in Linz, the last-mentioned is physician to the well-known Hospital of the Sisters of Charity; C. Mayerhofer, convict physician in Kremsmunster; Heller in Schlogl; Dulalion in Thalgau, near Salzburg; Schider, physician to the Cardinal reigning Bishop Schwarzenburg in Salzburg; Kuhne in Gastein; Sill in Oberneukirchen; Taubitz in Glaubendorf; Braun in Theschen; Huber in Herzogsdorf; Mayor in Schneeberg; Steiner in Troppau. A Homœopathic Hospital is being erected in Steyer.

TYROL.

In the Tyrol are, Bayer, army surgeon in Bregenz; Hechenberger, district physician in Weissenbach; Morz in Innsbruck; Marchesani in Botzen; Matzecker in Meran; Weisenisen in Lofer; and many of the monks practice Homœopathically where there are no physicians. Several districts, as for example Langkamphen, Zell, Landl, have petitioned Government for physicians of the new school.

BOHEMIA.

In Bohemia, by decree of the Government, dated 15th March, 1821, the Homœopaths were indirectly permitted to dispense their medicines. The names of the following physicians are known to us: Drs. Altschul, Bar, J. Hirsch, Hofrichter, Lewi, H. Lovy, and Schaller in Prague; Fiedler, Kromada and Gersune in Teplitz; Brand in Pilsen; Elsass in Kolin, Haunstein in Gottesgab; Hauptmann in Strickua; Holeczek in Kladrau; Huber in Riechenau; Knaf in Commotau; Kozischek in Brug; Muller in Brux; Nennig in Hohenfurt; Netolitzky in Senftenberg; Sigl in Gorkau; Sturm in Postelberg.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1848.

For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

HAHNEMANN AND DICKSON.

MR. EDITOR:

My attention was called, some time ago, to an article which appeared in a New York paper of April 23d, headed "Hahnemann and Dickson, the champions of Homœopathy and Chrono-Thermalism compared;" the writer of that article, under the influence of a too partial zeal for the cause which he advocates, has exhibited the Homœopathic system in anything but a true light, and his statements and manner of treating the subject are calculated to mislead those not acquainted with that system, and fill their minds with prejudices to the injury of the cause of truth.

To institute a comparison between the "champions," as the writer of the article terms them, of Homœopathy and Chrono-Thermalism, is undoubtedly right and good, provided it is done with fairness and justice; for out of such comparison, only good can

result in the development of truth. But, in order to such fairness and justice of comparison, it is self-evident that a thorough knowledge of both systems is an absolute requisite, also a mind free from all bias and prejudice, and capable of forming a rational and impartial judgment. Now, I am constrained to say, that I cannot find any evidence of such preparation for the task undertaken in the article that is before me; nay, more, that there is evidence of the strongest kind, of the writer's entire ignorance of the principles of that system which he subjects to such a summary condemnation, as well as of such a bias and prejudice in his mind in favor of the other system, as to cause a most remarkable obscuration of his mental vision, and to vitiate in a very great degree the judgment which he pronounces.

In the first paragraph of the article, the writer ascribes the success of the Homœopathic system, to the moderate treatment which it prescribes, under which nature is permitted to restore by the *vis medicatrix* within; the former violent practice having obstructed that law of the constitution of man. Now, it is very certain that this "leaving the patient to the operation of nature" is diametrically opposed to the principles as well as practice of Homœopathy, and that, therefore, if patients *do* recover under the hands of these *ignorant* practitioners, such recovery must take place in spite of the principles by which they are governed and of the system according to which they practice. That hence the success of the Homœopathic system is not owing to that which it does, or intends to do, but to that which it does *not* intend to do. How *uniform and universally acknowledged success* can rest upon such a basis, I confess I am unable to understand. That Homœopathy is opposed to the principle of "leaving patients to the operation of nature," the advocate of

Chrono-Thermalism may see by a reference to what is written in Hahnemann's Organism, from pp. 34-35; from which I will only make two extracts for the satisfaction of the general reader. In a note on page 26 are these words: "The ordinary school of medicine regarded the means which the organism employs to relieve itself, in those patients who make no use of medicines, as perfect models of imitation; *but they were greatly mistaken.*"

The miserable and very imperfect attempts which the vital powers make to assist themselves in acute diseases, is a spectacle that ought to excite man to use all the resources of his learning and wisdom to put an end, by a real cure, to this torment which nature herself inflicts. If nature cannot cure, homœopathically, a disease already existing in the system, by the production of a fresh malady *similar to it*—a thing not often in her power to effect—and if the system, deprived of all external succor, stands alone to triumph over a malady that has just broken out, (her resistance is totally powerless in chronic mis-isms) we see nothing but painful and often dangerous efforts of the constitution to save itself at all hazards, efforts of which death is most frequently the result." And on p. 35. "That innate power of man which directs life in the most perfect manner *whilst in health*, whose presence is alike felt in every part of the system, in the sensitive as in the irritable fibre, and which is the indefatigable spring of all the actions of the body, was not created for the purpose of aiding itself in disease. *It does not exercise a system of cure that is worthy of imitation, that is to say, a work of reflection and judgment, and which, when the automatic and unintelligent vital powers have been disordered by disease, and innormal action produced, knows how to modify them by appropriate remedies, so that after the disappearance of the new disease produced by the medicine, (which soon takes place,) they return to their normal state, and to their appointed function of maintaining health in the system, without having undergone, during this conversion, any painful or debilitating attacks. Homœopathic Medicine teaches us the mode by which we are to arrive at this result.*"

From this it is plain, that so far from "leaving patients to the operation of nature," the Homœopathic practitioners are bound to act upon the very opposite principle, and if any success attends their efforts, it must be the result of the operation of the great law upon

which their system is based, scientifically and skilfully carried out and applied. How then can the above writer say that "*all the good of Homœopathy*" consists in that which it does not do, and does not intend to do? Will his judgment in this particular be sustained by *any* disinterested and unprejudiced mind?"

Perhaps, however, we shall be told, "it is true Homœopathy does not profess to cure in this way, but the doses which it administers are so minute, so infinitesimal, that they can have no effect upon the system, and thus it amounts to the same thing in the end." To this I would reply by quoting the writer's own language: "The most active ingredients in a *large quantity will destroy or injure life*, in which case they are poisons; but a minute quantity, in some cases, will not only neither destroy nor injure life, but *cure* disease, in which cases they are medicines." Now, by what law will he determine the degree of minuteness of the quantity to be administered, in order to *cure* disease? Is the curative principle of the medicine contained more in *one* part of the substance used than in *another*; and can this principle ever be *destroyed* by any process of division, trituration or dilution? It is philosophically true, that matter is indestructible; all that seems *like* destruction being no more than a change of form; and the essential principle of a substance will always remain the same, no matter what form it may assume. It is philosophically true, that the vital powers of the human frame, being essential *powers* of the highest order of natural life, are more subtle, refined and sublimated, than the commonly known, chemically evolved principles of any other material organism; and if, therefore, by any process of refinement and sublimation, we can *approach* the essential principle of a material substance possessing medicinal properties, we must have a more powerful, because a more congenial agent to act upon the human body when in a disordered and disorganized condition. By such process, it is clear, we do not remove ourselves from the curative power of the medicine, but we approximate to it, for we go from its last principles to its first principles; and as the first principles of anything are always the most universal, containing within themselves all other principles which proceed from them, we hence obtain a more universal, and therefore, higher power than if we had remained with the ultimate or lowest form in which it

is manifested. In extracting the essence of any vegetable substance, do we destroy that substance? Do we not rather evolve and concentrate its vital properties and hence obtain them in greater power, purity and perfection? What enlightened mind will deny this? And who cannot, therefore, see that the doctrine of infinitesimal doses is based upon that great philosophical truth, "that a substance, by division, does not become more simple, but more multiple." It becomes more multiple because it approaches, more and more, the great fountain and source of all life and power. Will the writer of the article which I am considering deny this truth? How then *can* he feel justified in pronouncing such a sweeping judgment as this: "the system (Homœopathic,) is built not only upon a narrow and contracted basis, but upon error, ignorance and false principles."

But this is not the only evidence of error and ignorance presented by the system, according to the opinion of this writer, for he takes great exception to the law, *similia similibus curantur*, and to the false principle of judging diseases by their symptoms. Now, in respect to the first, I must be permitted to inform this advocate of Chrono-Thermalism, that it is the result of the experience of ages, and of that kind of experience which is the best, the *unconscious* experience. By this I mean the experience which has come to every careful and faithful physician by the experiments which he was compelled to make, in the course of his practice, for the cure of his patients, without any premeditated idea or pre-formed theory concerning the truth of such a principle, and in order to establish and confirm which such experiments were made. Hahnemann has proved the truth of this law, not from the principles and theories, but from the *facts* related in the works of the most distinguished physicians who lived before him and who gave their experience to the world. The examination of his writings will show this. Hence is it not a *new law* but only the enunciation of an old law, which we have received from Hahnemann. Concerning this law the writer thus observes: "The first principle that like will cure like, is about as correct as that two wrongs will make a right, that evil applied to evil will produce good." From these comparisons we must draw the conclusion that he is in the same darkness with many others as to the true signification of *similia similibus curantur*. This phrase is

simply to be understood thus: the medicine which, when given to a person in health produces a certain class of symptoms, will remove or cure those symptoms when they appear as a consequence of disease or disturbed health. Now I would ask, how can this principle be compared to the truth, that "two wrongs do not make a right?" What connection is there between the two? Might not the same remark be applicable to all methods of cure? Is the writer ignorant of the fact, that any medical agent given to a person in health will produce symptoms of disease? And would he therefore consider it *a wrong* to administer such medical agent in case of disease? In fact, the very comparison is so absurd that I have not the patience to reply to it any further. As to the other comparison, that evil applied to evil will produce good, I would ask the writer, does he doubt it? Is it not according to the order of Divine Providence that evil applied to evil *always* produces good. Is not this principle the very basis of the criminal law of the land; the law which is intended to act both as a preventive and a cure of the evils that injure and endanger the existence of society? Is it not an *evil* to put man to death, to imprison him, to deprive him of his possessions? And yet these *evils* are continually done according to law, and justly done. A man is hung for murder, or imprisoned for life, or fined, in order to prevent him and others from injuring their fellow men, and when this end is effected *good* is produced. Can the writer not see that the idea of wrong and evil is relative, and that the quality of an act *must* be determined by the end in view? Surely, if he had reflected a little more upon this subject, he would not have attempted to support his attack by such unfortunate quotations from scripture as he has favored us with, and treated us to the discovery that "the sceptical Pharisees seemed to have Homœopathic notions" when they said of Christ, "He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the chief of devils." To which the Lord replied: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself how shall his kingdom stand?"

Our writer allows that "all scripture teaches the correspondence between spiritual evil, i. e. *sin*, and physical evil, i. e. *disease*, and that if sin had never entered into the world there would never have been *disease*. Now

let us interpret these passages by this admission. The *kingdom of Satan* is *disease*—if this be *divided against itself*, it must be brought to desolation; i. e., disease must lose its power and be destroyed. When Satan acts against Satan, his kingdom cannot stand, the Lord wishes to be inferred. It is not to be supposed that “I by Beelzebub should cast out devils; for Satan and all evil spirits must desire that their kingdom *should* stand and not be brought to desolation.” But is not this the very thing that is *actually* desired by the Lord and all good men; that the kingdom of Satan, both spiritually and physically, *should be brought to desolation*; that *sin* and *disease* should be removed? The power which the Lord exerts, that by which he “casts out devils,” is the power of bringing good out of evil, of making all things in the world of spirit and matter work together for the promotion and fulfilment of the great end of good which he has designed in creation. Thus the physician makes use of a medical agent which, in many cases, is a poison, and therefore destructive of life, in order to preserve life by the restoration of the system to a state of health. This is done in all systems of medical practice; and if the objection be valid at all, it must avail as much against Allopathy and Chrono-Thermalism as against Homœopathy. The only difference, in this respect, between the last mentioned and the former modes of treatment, lies in the law according to which these medical agents are applied. The Homœopathic law of *similia similibus curantur*, is one which I think I could demonstrate to be philosophically true, if time and space permitted, but which does not need *such* demonstration, as it rests upon the more tangible basis of the accumulated experience of thousands and thousands who have been restored to health under its operation. Let it be *honestly tried* and it will be found true. I have seen it tried, have tried it myself, and have witnessed its triumphantly successful operation in the most difficult and dangerous cases of disease, which if left to the *vis medicatrix* within, according to the discovery made by our advocate of Chrono-Thermalism, would have removed the patients from the sick lists, to be sure, but only to be removed to the lists of mortality. And it is out of gratitude for what the Lord has enabled men to do, by means of this system of medical treatment, that I have felt myself constrained to make some reply to one who so

arrogantly passes upon it the judgment “of error, ignorance and false principles.”

As to the matter of “error and ignorance,” we fear that the writer of the article has laid himself open to the charge of both when he says: “If similars cure, when a man in health has brought on a chill by cold and exposure, the *same* means should cure him; when he has brought on a fever by laboring in a tropical sunshine, he should cure his fever by the *same* means.” Is he not aware that the expressions *similar* and *same* have a different signification? If he is not I would refer him to his dictionary for an explanation of the meaning of the terms. It is not contended that the *same* things which produce a disease, will also cure it; but that those things which produce certain symptoms in a healthy subject will cure *similar* symptoms in one afflicted by sickness. Besides, is he ignorant of the fact that cold and chills are often cured by means of *cold* water? And further, does he not *contradict his own position* when he says, “That in some instances the same ingredients used for the cure of disease, will in others produce it, *is very true*; viz., gin will sometimes cure dropsy, and it will sometimes produce the dropsy; in the latter case *excess* of gin is the cause; and *excess* in many other things, and many other causes, will produce the effect. In the former case the cure will be produced by the *judicious* use of the remedy in question.” By what law is the judicious use of this remedy to be determined?

As another evidence of “the error, ignorance and false principles” of the Homœopathic system, we are referred to the matter of symptoms. With regard to this our writer says: “The second principle to be considered is that of symptoms; the removal of which is removing only effects, not causes, which amounts to nothing, unless symptoms are a sure criterion of the cause. This the Homœopaths imagine to be a fact, though we daily see their mistake demonstrated by the same causes producing different symptoms in individuals *according to the different constitutions*.” Now, I must be pardoned for expressing my astonishment at the obtuseness manifested by the writer, no less than at his extreme arrogance in attempting, by a few words like these, to overthrow the well-established doctrine of symptoms. What are symptoms? Are they not the effects of causes, and do not the latter manifest themselves outwardly in and by the former? Further, are not the

causes always in the effects produced by them? If, then, the effects (symptoms) are removed, will not the causes also be removed? If the latter continue to exist, will not the former also be continually produced and manifest their existence? It seems strange to our enlightened writer, that diseases should be judged of and treated according to their symptoms. I would ask, by what else shall and can they be judged of? Are symptoms not the *only* evidence which we have of the existence of disease? By what do the Chrono-Thermalist practitioners judge of diseases? And is it not evident from the fact that the application of a certain remedy, by Homœopaths, is always determined by the nature of the symptoms, that the truth of the variation of the symptoms arising from the same cause or disease, which is produced by the peculiar constitution of the patient, is recognized as fundamental by their system? Why pay such exact and minute attention to symptoms if this were not the case? If this writer had endeavored to learn a little more of Homœopathy, he would have been enabled to correct his own *error* and *ignorance* in this particular. Such study, too, would have enlightened him to see, that the Homœopathist, when he speaks of *specifics*, does not understand thereby that certain remedies are specific medicines in the cure of certain cases, but that those medicines which are similar are specifics, when strictly applied according to the great law of *similia similibus curantur*.

I now come to that which is, perhaps, the most marvellous part of the article before us. I call it marvellous, because it is really astounding that any one pretending to any degree of enlightenment and elevation of view should use such language as the following: "The narrowness of Hahnemann's theory must appear in the following words: 'Life cannot be compared to anything in the world except itself. No relation subsists between it and a *hydraulic* or other machine, a *chemical* operation, a decomposition and production of *gas*, and galvanic battery. In a word, it resembles nothing which does not live.' And much more to the same effect. Hahnemann's success, with such notions, serves to show how much more ready the world is to receive the false than the true. Mankind are always slow in adopting great truths, which fact explains the very gradual open reception of the Chrono-Thermal System of Medicine, which is founded on the *broad and expansive analo-*

gies of the whole Universe in direct opposition to the fallacies of Hahnemann. The candid observer and the intelligent anatomist may contrast with what we have just quoted, and judge of the correctness of the Chrono-Thermal views from the words of the originator of the system, as follows. 'Man, who stands highest in the scale of animated beings, is a *microcosm*, a little world in himself, &c. If you *compare* the ossification of the skull with mechanical inventions, you will find it to be an exemplification of the most perfect *carpentry*. The joints of the body embrace principle of the *hinge*; the muscles, tendons and bones are so many *ropes, pulleys, and levers*; the lungs act in *bellows-fashion*, alternately taking in and giving out *gas*; the intestinal canal is a containing *tube*, &c., &c.'"

I have given this extract in order to present an example of the marvellous clearness of vision and enlightened judgment of this *champion* of Chrono-Thermalism. Who cannot see, with half an eye, that Hahnemann and Dickson are speaking of *two very different* things; the former treating of the *life* of man, the *vital principle*, the invisible power which acts *in* man, whilst the latter is discoursing upon the outward organism, the external frame-work and machine, *by* which the vital principle acts and *in* which it exists? Is it possible, that any one at *this day* should *compare* the *life* of man to a *machine*, and subject it to *mechanical* and *chemical* laws? And yet such is the comparison which is gravely made by Dr. Dickson, the originator of the Chrono-Thermal system, who actually goes so far as to reduce the life of man, the highest principle of human natural existence, to a state of subjection to the laws of galvanism and electricity. Is not this the most gross and absurd materialism? And because Hahnemann has reached far above "*such notions*" as *these*, his theory is condemned as "*narrow*," and himself accused of error, ignorance, and the promulgation of false principles. "Verily, a Daniel come to judgment!"

A few more words and I have done. If men will only pursue the right course in the examination of truth, they will have no difficulty of arriving at a state of conviction with regard to it. In order to discover the truth of the Homœopathic system, a thorough scientific examination of it must first be entered into, and pursued with faithfulness and honesty. To this examination, a pure love of the truth, for the truth's sake, is an absolute requi-

site, and freedom from all bias and prejudice for any other system, or, at least, an entire willingness to cast aside such bias and prejudice, and to be convinced when incontestable proof is offered. Such an examination must be followed by a *practical application* of the principles that are to be tested, according to the laws of the system under investigation; and this, too, must be made with an honest determination to receive the truth, whatever it may be, and however much it may militate against preconceived notions and interested motives. He who has merely dipped a little into a science, and who knows nothing of its application, cannot constitute himself a judge of its truth or untruth. As well might we suppose a man to have become a competent arithmetician by the simple perusal of an elementary work on that science, and before he has made himself familiar with the methods of calculation and the laws which govern them. And if a comparison between two systems of the same science is attempted, is it not plain that this course must be pursued in regard to both? How can any rational decision be arrived at in any other way. The things compared must *both* be thoroughly known and understood, theoretically as well as practically. Where this has not been done, any comparison that is attempted will only lead to an exposure of "the error and ignorance" of the one who enters upon it.

I would therefore close with the parting advice to the writer of the article which we have been considering, before he attempts to make another comparison between the champions of Homœopathy and Chrono-Thermalism, let him seek by diligent study, examination and investigation of *both* systems, to remove somewhat the mists of "error and ignorance," which have caused such a remarkable obscuration of his mental vision, as is evident in this production of his pen.

A FRIEND OF TRUTH.

A REFORMATION IN MANNERS NEEDED AMONG PHYSICIANS.

It may be regarded useless labor to even attempt to correct the unreasonable manners of physicians toward one another; yet it may not be amiss to notice the subject occasionally, for, perchance, some one or more might be induced to consider the obligation that exists for every member of the profession to so con-

duct himself as to avoid a violation of that old and established rule in morals "speak evil of none."

Disagreement among medical practitioners is proverbial. If this consisted in a real difference in doctrine and practice, and promulgated fairly and honestly, influenced by a love of truth, and feelings of benevolence for suffering humanity, the interest of all concerned would thereby be promoted; but when bickerings arise from envy, or malice, the case is widely different, and should receive that withering scorn which such conduct richly merits.

Everybody knows that one physician has no right to speak evil of another merely for opinion's sake; and whoever is guilty of such folly invariably suffers in some way or other, in reputation or property; for, it is a violation of an important moral principle. After an experience of nearly half a century, and "up hill work" during the whole of that time, we are fully established upon another law in morals "that as ye measure to others it shall be measured to you again."

We do not believe that any harm would come to physicians, or that the medical profession would suffer in its dignity, if its members were at once to fall back upon those old rules of ethics which all right minded persons regard with the highest degree of respect and reverence.

To such a pitch has evil speaking attained in the medical profession, that the seeming confidence among its members is a deceitful appearance, and we have laughed in our heart many a time, at the awkwardness we have witnessed, in an attempt to convince of the purity of motives.

We knew a practitioner who on almost all occasions called his creator to witness his sincerity and honesty. "I would not, for the world, deceive any one"—"I would not be guilty of a dishonorable act for my right arm"—"I would not speak disrespectfully of a member of the profession for a mint of money"—these were some of his every day remarks; and yet, it was notorious that his conduct was anything but what could be approved by the wise and good.

A classmate of ours, of much ability in memory, carefully stored it with most of the fallacious theories in medicine; and mistaking them for facts, a distinction he was never able to perceive, became, under such a heavy burden, fully convinced that he was almost the greatest man in medicine; and, being a

great talker, he invariably spoke disparagingly of his colleagues—no one was worthy of confidence but himself. Soon he was despised and avoided by every one who knew him, and his self-love was such that he made the acquaintance of all within his reach, not doubting but that his self-praise was as agreeable to others as to himself.

There is a sort of knowledge in medicine which “puffeth up.” It is the baseless theories that have been put forth from time to time, and in most instances by those eager for fame, and destitute of a regard for truth. To these theories we trace the evil of which we complain; and a reform we do not expect, so long as the colleges teach them for truth, and continue to present them, as they have done, so that students sometimes mistake them for facts. The senior members of the profession are not so liable to indulge in unbrotherly conduct as are the junior members. This, we think, is a fact; and from it we infer, that experience has in a measure corrected the tendency of those pernicious doctrines which were taught them in their youth.

But may we not look for the period when real friendship and brotherly affection, among the members of the medical profession, shall prevail? It is our opinion that, that much to be desired state of things is approaching. Our reason for this conclusion is, that there never was a period when the profession so industriously sought for true principles in the science of medicine as now. There are here and there giant minds among us, who boldly urge that ancient practical rule, so long neglected in medicine, although as appropriate to it as anything else, “prove all things, and hold fast that which is good.”

Among these we may mention, that clear-headed and fearless Forbes, of England, who has lighted a torch that can never be put out. That liberal-minded and truth-loving Henderson, of Scotland, who, for himself, investigated the claims of Homœopathy, and yielded to the truth according to his experiments. That practical-minded and skillful Croserio, of France, whose papers are gems in the literature of medicine. And our own industrious Paine, who, with many errors, has promulgated enough of truth to immortalize his name. And many others also, both in Europe and America, whose talents, learning, industry, honesty, and correct deportment are known to the profession, and with whom the public are becoming acquainted; and upon

whom will be bestowed that honor, fame and emolument, which a well spent life invariably secures in the medical profession. Let it, therefore, be remembered by all croakers, detractors, libellers, slanderers, whisperers, and fault-finders in the profession, that you, yourselves, shall reap that which you have sown; and after a while you may gather and enjoy the fruit of your works unmolested.

HAHNEMANN'S CORRESPONDENCE.

To DR. SCHRETER, in *Lemberg*.

CÖTHEN, 19th December, 1831.

Dear Colleague—I have had no opportunity of treating fully developed Cholera myself, but have often, by advice and directions, been enabled to stifle it in the bud. At least 30,000 copies of my directions have been circulated among the inhabitants of Vienna, Hungary, Berlin, and Magdeburg; and many thousands have been saved, when each, the instant he was attacked with Cholera, had administered to him by his friends a drop of spirit of camphor every five minutes, and was well washed over head, neck, and chest with a solution of camphor (1 to 12) by means of the hand, and in less than an hour he was quite well, without secondary sufferings, as if nothing had happened to him.

By this means, as I said, according to the accounts I have received, many thousands have been saved in secret, without the knowledge of a physician, or of the neighbors in the house. Now, as by my experience, camphor vapor is the only trustworthy means of annihilating the probably animated miasma of Cholera, it is easy to understand how the Cholera was so rapidly extinguished by its means in Vienna, Berlin and Magdeburg. This extinction of Cholera in the first quarter of an hour by camphor, is available only in the acute attacks of Cholera, and as I have said, only in the first hour, in which the aid of a physician cannot be obtained, and the disease is still in its stage of tonic cramp; when however this, as is soon the case, passes into the stage of relaxation and of clonic cramps, then the Homœopathic physician can still do good, though with difficulty enough, with *veratrum*, *cuprum*, &c.

Much more troublesome are those (not acute) gradual diseases which arise from Cholera (as Father Veiß, in Vienna, calls these insidious cases), when the inhabitants of

a town, owing to the widely diffused and hence more diluted miasmatic vapor (the focus of which are the dead bodies of those who die under Allopathic treatment,) get only a few symptoms of the Cholera, which pass off in the case of robust individuals, but in weak persons turn gradually into vomiting, but principally into painless, but very debilitating diarrhœas, with much flatulence, and which, (if not well treated) end in tetanic convulsions, delirium and death. In these insidiously occurring affections the employment of camphor is inadmissible, it would only hasten the patient's death. Phosphoric acid, as Father Veith found, has proved specific in these colliquative diarrhœas, accompanied with rumbling in the bowels, which exhaust the vital powers; and I too have found it the same in patients affected in this way in Magdeburg.

When the Cholera actually attacks, if those seized by it should be immediately treated by their friends with camphor-spirit, there would then be no fully developed Cholera; or such cases would at least be much more rare, and still more rare fatal cases; and hence also no spreading of the miasmatic vapor through the town, consequently also no cholérine, nor any of that lingering kind of Cholera, which I consider the most dangerous of all.

As regards the controversy upon the contagiousness of Cholera, I beg you will read at your leisure my little pamphlet, entitled "*Appeal to philanthropists respecting the mode in which Cholera is infectious, with an Appendix by Anthony Schmitt*," published by Charles Berger; and thereafter, "*Schnitzer's Cholera Contagiosa*," Breslau.

In order to provide the dear little Patty with the protective cow-pox, the safest plan would certainly be to obtain the lymph direct from the cow; but if this cannot be done (children are also made more ill by it, than from the matter obtained from human beings) I would advise you to inoculate another child with the protective pox, and as soon as a slight redness of the punctures shows it has taken, I would immediately for two successive days give *Sulphur* 1-30, and inoculate your child from the pock that is produced. As far as I have been able to ascertain, a child cannot communicate psora whilst under the action of Sulphur.

Note by Dr. Schreter.—Since the time when Hahnemann gave me this advice, I have always acted on it in the inoculation of children, with the best results. I have vaccinated

on an average thirty children per annum since 1832, and have not observed in any of them a trace of eruptions, scrofula, &c., which so often takes place after ordinary vaccination; and though I have purposely, for the sake of experiment, vaccinated from one child with ophthalmia, from another with psoric eruption, from a third with scrofula, there did not appear the slightest traces of these diseases in those inoculated from them; a convincing proof that no psora is communicable during the primary action of sulphur. When I obtain vaccine virus from another colleague, in order to vaccinate the first in the year, there generally occur psoric symptoms in this one, although it gets sulphur immediately after the inoculation; the sulphur is not capable of preventing the outbreak of inoculated psora, although this will not occur in those subsequently vaccinated. I witnessed a melancholy result in the case of a child of my sister's, who was about leaving this place, and begged me to vaccinate her child before she left. I did so, but the vaccination did not take, she had to leave in eight days, and I had no child that had taken sulphur; I was, therefore, forced to take the matter from a child to all appearance in good health, that had been vaccinated exactly eight days before. But how horrified I was, when the fourth day on the appearance of the pock, convulsions came on, which continued uninterruptedly, yielding to no remedy, and carried off the child on the eighth day. I enquired particularly from the parents of the child from whom I had obtained the virus, whether their child had ever had convulsions, and they at last confessed that a slight fit had occurred when the infant was a few weeks old (it was now nine months old and of blooming appearance) but not since then. This catastrophe might have been prevented, had the child got sulphur immediately after the vaccination. I now give after vaccination, for seven days, a dose of sulphur 30, each day, and a few doses to the nurse or suckling mother.

PARIS, the 13th August, 1840.

Esteemed Friend and Colleague—I know not, when in the course of my long life I have been better or happier than in Paris, in the loved society of my dear Melanie, who cares for nought in the world more than for me. I also begin gradually to find that my professional labors are creating in the great metropolis more than mere attention—a high respect

for our divine healing art. All patients who are not bedridden, whatever their rank, visit me every day (Sundays excepted) in my study. To those only, who are confined to bed, I drive from 8 to 10 o'clock in the evening. Two or three times a week I go with my wife to a theatre or concert.

In all ages there have been some excessive panegyrist of cold water. The reasons why Priesnitz is so successful with gluttons and drunkards of many years standing, and with patients ruined by effeminate habits, are not sufficiently attended to by the world and the medical profession; and the excellence of his scanty diet, his prohibition of coffee, tea, spices, his suitable, forced walking in the open air not considered. To the cold water alone all the benefit obtained is attributed—thus are men led astray from want of judgment. Is it not plain that these old sinners who have originally good constitutions, but who are prevented from recovering by their balls, dissipation, and other vices, are there compelled to live consistently with nature to their own advantage? Is this not the chief instrument of their restoration? And how many suffering from chronic disease, but not owing their complaints to an improper mode of living, has not Priesnitz ruined by the excessive use of cold water, whereby they have been deprived of their sight or hearing? A good, especially a Homœopathic physician, always knows when and in what cases to employ with advantage cold water, without carrying it too far, and without doing any harm with it. Everything in its proper place! Cold water is merely a physical accessory means for the perfect re-establishment of patients cured by the appropriate medicinal agents.

Note by Dr. Schreter.—I cannot entirely subscribe to Hahnemann's observations respecting cold water, on which subject I had communicated to him my experience in a letter. I was myself, in 1837, on the spot where Priesnitz practices, and there saw many very respectable patients, some of whom I had previously known, some with whom I became acquainted there, whose diseases were owing neither to excessive eating and drinking, nor to other irregular habits. Most of them, I may say all, were medicinally ill; and in this respect the excellent effects of cold water were seen, in driving the medicinal disease out of the system. This is a great advantage, that is often lost to us in Homœo-

pathy, as the medicinal disease is often the greatest obstacle in our path. I saw patients who had formerly taken much mercury, in whom the mercury exuded in the state of oxide from their ulcers; a gentleman, who three years previously had used Leroy's mixture for a long time, whose perspiration for some weeks had exactly the odour of that medicine, and was coloured by it. A most convincing proof of the length of time these substances can remain in the body, which, according to the views of the Allopathists, they ought to purge from all impurities. All who had at one time had several ulcers, eruptions, clap, &c., experienced a renewal of their complaints, although the affection dated twenty, thirty or forty years previously; whereas those that had been treated Homœopathically by me, had nothing of the sort during the water treatment.

The above facts, I should think, sufficiently prove the advantages of Hydropathy, it is, however, generally insufficient for the thorough cure of chronic diseases—whereas the Homœopathic remedies act all the more favorably in the system thus purified from medicinal disease, and they may be employed with great advantage during the hydropathic treatment. At the same time a striking corroboration of Hahnemann's Psora theory is afforded by Hydropathy, as almost all the cures are terminated by itching eruptions, furuncululi, ulcers, and renewal of the formerly contracted local symptoms.

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

The Physicians of Wisconsin have formed an association entitled as above. The members have agreed to engage in the very important work of the trial of drugs, and have selected for that purpose, the *Euonymus atropurpureus*, or Wauhoo, and *Ostrya Virginica*, or Iron-wood.

The progress of real medical science in Wisconsin is highly encouraging. We learn that a large number of respectable Allopaths are engaged in the laudable work of investigating Homœopathy. That they will find convincing results of the truth of that system we have no doubt.

Some of our readers may be interested in the following account of the transactions of "The Milwaukee City Medical Association,"

(Allopathic) which we find in "The Milwaukee Homœopathic Medical Reporter," for September, 1848.

"It is a custom of Medical Associations to publish annually, a volume of their transactions for the benefit of the world. The society in which we formerly had the honor of membership at the east follows this custom and our humble contributions served to increase the size if not the value of the volume. We have a strong inclination to see our good old eastern custom continued. The Medical Association of this city, though it has had an existence of several years, has not yet favored the world with the publication of its doings, and from sundry indications, it is one of the last things it contemplates doing. Believing that such a publication would be useful to the public, and an act of justice to the members, and as they seem too modest to publish their own doings, we propose to furnish a sketch.

"The Association was re-modelled and its present Constitution, By Laws, and code of Ethics adopted in Dec. 1847.

"Article second of the Constitution declares that 'The *object* of the Association shall be to protect the interest and promote the advancement of the medical and collateral sciences'

"To illustrate how faithfully the Association have adhered to '*the object*' of its formation, we propose, first, to give a connected account of its transactions in relation to Homœopathy and to those who practice it or even examine it. When the constitution was adopted, and the Association took its present form, it was declared in the preamble, that one of the objects of their combination was, to 'check in some degree the spread of quackery among us.' As Homœopathy was the only doctrine which they denominated quackery, that was 'spreading among us,' it was well understood, that the energies of the Association would be mainly directed, to 'protect the interest of the medical and collateral sciences' against the inroads of Homœopathy, which was making rather alarming 'progress among us'

On the delivery of the first official address by the President, Dr. Marsh, '*the object*' of the association was not forgotten. The speaker reminded the members of their duty towards Homœopathy, and exhorted them to be active and vigilant in their opposition to it. He urged upon them the duty of instructing families with whom they had intercourse respecting the danger of employing Homœopathic physicians. He wished it impressed on the minds of all, that it was highly important that a 'scientific' physician should be employed in the commencement of a disease, and that they, the scientific physicians, the members of the Association extremely disliked to take patients on their hands, who had been under Homœopathic treatment.

It was perfectly understood that the members were not only to avoid recognizing us as physicians, but that they were not to know us as human beings in any of the relations of

life. Of this we were soon made sensible in various ways. Scarcely an individual member acceded to us any of the common civilities of life. When we accidentally met at the house of a common friend, and had, as a matter of a common civility, an introduction, we were treated with such marked incivility, that the family felt that they, as well as we, were insulted within their own house.

"One of the members of the Association having been seen to recognize us in the street, received a severe reprimand for it. He excused himself by saying that he did not recognize us as physicians, but as men—that he thought us clever fellows and liked to talk with us. The reply was, It is no matter, you have no business to know them at all. One of us was introduced to a member, who, after a very agreeable conversation, on various medical subjects, invited us to become a member of the Association. It was now necessary to inform him of our Homœopathic character. He acknowledged that we could not be admitted to membership, but after considerable conversation on the points of defence, he expressed the opinion that these differences should not be a cause of exclusion, and his belief that if any member of good standing should declare his conviction, after examination, of the truth of Homœopathy and adopt the practice, he would not be expelled. But he was a little green. He subsequently learned better and voted to expel one of the most respectable members for this very cause. This man, as a man, is kind, liberal, and gentlemanly, and as a physician as much so as the Association to which he is connected will permit, and rather more so, for he has even recently taken us by the hand.

During the last winter the attention of Dr. Hewit was directed, in a spirit of candor, to an examination of the merits of Homœopathy. For the information of our citizens, not a word need be said by us, of Dr. Hewit. He is much better known here than ourselves; but we may speak of him for the purpose of giving our distant readers a better understanding of our history.

"Dr. Hewit, then, is among the longest, if not the very longest resident physician of this city. He is, in the best sense of the word, a gentleman. An industrious student of medicine, (so rare among the faculty,) he is second to none in this city in professional acquirements, added to long and varied experience. There is not a member of the profession here (unless a very recent comer,) who has not often sought and enjoyed his counsel in cases of difficulty and danger. Kind in his feelings, of never questioned honesty and integrity, and perfectly courteous to all. No medical brother ever had occasion to find fault with him for taking the least advantage of his popularity to advance his own interests, to the prejudice of another. And when others have abused his confidence and sought his injury, as they not unfrequently have, his peaceful temper has never allowed him to harbor resentment or seek revenge. To a man of such attainments and character, the members of the

profession generally, have felt they could resort, in cases of difficulty and danger, with safety and profit. He has, for many years, had more business than he wished to do, and therefore could not have commenced the examination of Homœopathy from the sordid motive of popularity or pecuniary gain, as is meanly charged by some of his professional brethren who seem unable to appreciate a higher motive.

"He had pursued the investigation but a very little time before he found, contrary to his expectation, what all so quickly find on making the trial, viz: that even the smallest Homœopathic doses, given under the proper circumstances, produce very prompt and palpable effects. The effects of his first doses were so prompt and powerful, that, like most others, he soon became much more afraid of giving too much than too little. Having found so much of Homœopathy was true, he resolved to give the whole subject a full and fair trial. As he continued to administer Homœopathically to his patients, he every day witnessed the most unexpectedly pleasing, prompt and happy results. This soon became known, and some of his brethren made vigorous efforts to dissuade him from prosecuting the inquiry, representing it as beneath the dignity of a professional man to examine a practice so obviously absurd and false. They *knew* that our doses *could* produce no effects whatever. He replied that they should both know better whether it was true or false, when they had fairly tried it—that he already knew that our doses did produce very palpable and powerful effects, and having learned so much, he was determined to give the whole subject a full investigation before deciding for or against it. He even did not scorn to counsel with our humble selves, in a matter which he now saw to be so important. This was alarming. The prospect that such a man as Dr Hewit with his well known investigating, student-like habits, and honest purpose, might make so thorough an examination as to arrive at a full conviction of the truth, and then add the weight of his authority and intelligence to the doctrine they most feared, and what it was the main object of the association to resist, was not to be tolerated without at least an effort to check his career. He accordingly received the following official communication.

"MILWAUKEE, March 31st, 1848.

"DR. HEWIT,

"Dear Sir:—At the last regular meeting of the M. C. M. A., (meaning the Milwaukee City Medical Association,) 'apparently good evidence was laid before the Association that you had violated one of the rules of our compact, in consulting with a non-member of this Association. The Association would be glad to learn the falsity of this report, but if true, what excuse you have to offer for so doing. The next regular meeting of the Association will be held at Dr. Dousman's office, on Thursday, April 6, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

By order of the Association,

Yours most respectfully,

ALFRED MERCER.

Cor. Sec. M. C. M. A."

"Dr. Hewit answered the summons by attending the next meeting, and gave an undisguised statement of his position. He stated that he was examining the subject of Homœopathy, and meant to do it fairly and thoroughly. He supposed he had a right to examine all subjects relating to his profession, and if so, this implied the right to avail himself of all the means within his reach, which could aid him in the examination. As one of these means he had recourse to those who had made Homœopathy a study and been for years in the practice. He stated unequivocally, that he had consulted with Dr. Douglas, and believed himself justified in so doing. After consultation, it was *unanimously* resolved that Dr. Hewit's explanation was satisfactory; in other words that he was *not* guilty of violating any of the rules of the Association. Thus justified in his course, he pursued his investigation with hourly increasing conviction of the truth and value of Homœopathy. His progress was too rapid to be otherwise than alarming, for it began to be generally understood that his practice had become almost exclusively Homœopathic. Some of the members were dissatisfied that they had pronounced him guiltless, and predicted that they should have trouble with him."

We have several times expressed our surprise at the unwise proceedings of Allopathic physicians towards those of our school. That which happened to Dr. Hewit has been experienced by many others in different parts of our country, but in every instance, the effect was to promote the spread of Homœopathy. "Whom the Gods intend to destroy, they first make mad," can be truly applied to the Allopathic school. That school is certainly beside itself, or it would never do as it does towards those who see fit to bear testimony in favor of the science and art of medicine as taught by Hahnemann.

The period, we think, is near at hand, when Physicians will not allow their minds to be controlled by the by-laws and resolutions of medical associations, when these tend to prevent a thorough investigation of any and every thing which promises in any measure to improve the healing art.

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

HOMŒOPATHY IN KIDDERMINSTER.

A Homœopathic Dispensary was opened by our indefatigable colleague, Dr. Fearon of Birmingham, at Kidderminster; and in October last the following circular was addressed by him to the medical profession in Kidderminster and its neighborhood:

"The Kidderminster Homœopathic Dispensary having now been opened several weeks, it becomes necessary to state its objects. In most places one marked characteristic of the practitioners of Homœopathy is their desire to spread a knowledge of the system among the members of the profession. Sharing in this desire, and finding that there were several families in the town and its neighborhood who were converts to this mode of practice, and who naturally wished to have at hand a practitioner that understood it; and to whom they might apply in case of need, I consented to establish a Dispensary, in order to afford such of the medical men as might be open to conviction, an opportunity of inquiring into and of studying the system. So far from seeking to derive any profit from my visits here, I shall be well content if, when the time comes for ceasing them, I find myself not a loser, considering the expenses necessarily attendant on them, and the loss of a day from my practice in Birmingham. The proposal I would make to you is that we should select an hour on the Saturdays for seeing at the Dispensary such cases as might appear to us well calculated to test the system, and I shall be most happy to render any assistance I can, to enable you to acquire a working knowledge of it. As soon as one or more of you feel inclined to take charge of the Dispensary, my visits will be made only once a fortnight; and directly they cease to be necessary to those who have so taken charge of it, they will altogether end. The sooner this can be effected, the better pleased I shall be, as it will enable me to turn my attention to spreading the system in another locality.

"I remain, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"GEORGE FEARON, M. D., M. R. C. S."

The invitation here given was accepted by only one medical man of the town, who after carefully examining the mode of treatment pursued at the Dispensary was convinced of the truth of Homœopathy, and having resolved on practicing it exclusively, tendered his resignation as surgeon to the old school Dispensary, in the following letter addressed to the committee:

"Kidderminster, February 9th, 1848.

"Gentlemen—Having come to the resolution of resigning my appointment as one of the Surgeons of the Dispensary, it appears requisite under existing circumstances, to

state the reasons which have induced me to do so. Shortly after I had the honor of being elected, my attention became directed to the Homœopathic System of Medicine, and the result of a careful consideration of the arguments brought forward in its favor, as well as of trials made by me with the medicinal preparations employed by the hundreds of Medical men who are now to be found among its adherents, was to convince me of its truth, and to render it, therefore, incumbent upon me in future to make it the *basis* of my treatment.

"Under these circumstances, I feel that I could not, without inconsistency, continue to be attached to a dispensary, where from the want of the necessary remedies, I should be compelled to treat the patients in a way I conscientiously believe is not the best adapted for affording them that relief from suffering which they seek.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOSEPH HEWIT."

The Dispensary is now in full operation, and associated with Dr. Fearon and Mr. Hewit, is Dr. Snow, lately resident in America, but now practicing Homœopathically in Kidderminster.

HOMOEOPATHY IN BELFAST.

The Homœopathic Dispensary proposed to be established in Belfast, as mentioned in our last number, has just been opened, under the medical management of Mr. Mac Gregor; we have pleasure in laying its rules before our readers.

1st. That this Dispensary shall be conducted exclusively on Homœopathic principles.

2nd. That a Committee of Management, consisting of eleven persons, with power to add to their number (five to form a quorum) shall be chosen annually, by the Patrons and subscribers; also a Secretary, who shall have the management of the books, minutes, and correspondence of the Institution; and a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be (assisted by a Member of Committee) to collect funds from the Subscribers and others.

3rd. That the Committee shall have the entire management of the Dispensary.

4th. That at the Annual Meeting, the Committee shall produce a Balance Sheet, and general statement of the Finances of the Institution, and make a general report on its results and prospects.

5th. That subscribers alone shall be eligible to recommend Applicants for treatment.

6th. That Subscribers for every five shillings per annum, shall have the liberty of recommending a patient in each month.

7th. That the tickets of application shall be signed by the Subscriber, with the name, age, and address of the Patient.

8th. That medical men shall be admitted to all dispensary consultations, upon presenting a card of a Member of the Committee with their own.

9th. That the Members of Committee meet on the first Tuesday Evening of every month, at the Dispensary, at a quarter-past Eight o'clock.

HOMŒOPATHY IN EDINBURGH.

Owing to the increase of patients at the Edinburgh Homœopathic Dispensary, the committee have taken larger and more central premises in St. James' Square, No. 5, which will afford more facility to students attending the University, and other Medical Schools of Edinburgh.—*Brit. Jour. Hom.*

OBITUARY.

SURGEON TIETZE, OF EBERSBACH.

In the third number of the third volume of the *Neues Archiv*, is a short memoir of this distinguished Homœopathic practitioner, by Dr. G. J. Ruckert.

The subject of the memoir "was born," says Dr. Ruckert, "at Oelsa, nekr Loban, where his father was a schoolmaster, on the 29th July, 1799. In the year 1812 he went to the Gymnasium at Bauzen, where he underwent the necessary preliminary studies for his subsequent medical education. In the year 1817, he went to the medico-chirurgical academy of Dresden, distinguished himself above his compeers for diligence and desire of acquiring knowledge, and after undergoing his examination for surgeon and accoucheur in 1820, he the same year entered on his practical career. Never resting activity and devotion soon procured him a considerable practice, especially as an accoucheur.

"Soon after him, I commenced my practical career as a Homœopathic physician in his neighborhood, where I not unfrequently met with him. Although intimate friends in our youth, we now stood in scientific respects dia-

metrically opposed, as he, still unacquainted with the nature of Homœopathy, and brimful of the wisdom of the old school, whose animosity towards the new doctrine he had imbibed, viewed me as an opponent in my capacity of physician, though his honest and upright character induced him to esteem me still as an old friend.

"It was not till the year 1838 that he ventured to make himself acquainted with Homœopathic writings, and he began to make cautious experiments, which succeeded in spite of his unbelief.

"Once however, convinced of the truth of the Homœopathic law of cure, he followed it out with untiring ardor; he hesitated not a moment to appear before the public as a converted Saul, patiently endured the harassing persecutions of his colleagues, and submissively bore what must have been to him, as a fortuneless father of a family, a hard lot, that of seeing himself suddenly descend from a wide spread practice, to a small number of patients; but so much the more diligently did he study Homœopathic works, convinced that after he had passed this crisis a happier future lay before him.

"And he was not deceived. With his practical skill he soon succeeded, by means of ever increasing cures, in forming a fine field of practice.

"He would now, however, not submit to be despoiled by any means of his hard-won conviction and experience; and, as was consistent with his straightforward character, he boldly confuted by word of mouth, and by writing, all the calumnies of the enemies, and the self-styled friends of Homœopathy, when they at all infringed on the truth, although some men of the opposite party in exalted positions occasionally made him feel, in no very agreeable manner, that he was not possessed of the doctor's degree.

"He belonged to that small section of medical men, who on the 13th June, 1832, founded our Lusatian Society; he was one of our most active members, was beloved by all on account of his candor, was honored as a zealous partisan of the new school, esteemed as a practitioner devoted to his patients, and he filled with great fidelity to the end of his life the post of Treasurer to the Society.

"Of late years he took great interest in the high potencies, which he employed with much success. He made himself useful to Homœopathy by many valuable memoirs in the *Ar-*

chiv, and in the 'Practical communications of the Lausation Silesian Society.'

"This spring (1847) a *typhus abdominalis*, that had been spreading slowly in our neighborhood for several years, approached his sphere of operations, and as soon as he discovered that belladonna and arsenic in high potencies were the chief remedies for it, he boldly encountered it, cured an immense number of those affected by it, (in one family alone seven individuals), little thinking that he was to fall a sacrifice to his usefulness.

"Several circumstances, especially a cough that gave his robust frame a severe shock, some depressing mental emotions, and exposure to cold after being engaged in protracted labours at a distance from his home, acted injuriously on his health, so that the contagion found in him a fruitful soil in which to take root.

"After several days of slight indisposition, he took seriously ill on the 11th of June, and suspected that he was about to be afflicted with typhus; he, however, saw and prescribed for his numerous patients until the 13th, although excessively weak in body, but at last on the 14th he was forced to take to his bed.

"Hitherto he had treated himself. He now, however, sought my aid with the utmost confidence.

"But more vexations awaited him. I only returned from a distant journey on the 18th, and found my patient in a despairing condition of mind, that I, although I could not avoid it, had left him so long in his extremity. All the remedies exhibited remained without effect, the disease increasing day by day indicated the approach of death, which occurred after several days of delirium, on the evening of the 23rd June. *Quiescat in pace!*"

THE LATE DR. GROSS.

In our January number we noticed the decease of this eminent disciple of Hahnemann, and since then we have been gratified by the perusal of an eloquent tribute to his memory from the pen of his intimate and constant friend Dr. Stapf. From this we borrow a few particulars we were unable to furnish in our former notice.

Dr. Gross was born at Kaltenborn near Jüterbogk, where his father was a clergyman, on the 6th September, 1794. He was at first destined for the clerical profession, and was sent to the cathedral school at Naumburg, where he soon distinguished himself by his progress in the dead languages, including Hebrew. Whilst there, he caught scabies, to the

improper treatment of which he was wont to ascribe the excessively delicate state of health he always had in after life. Having gone to Leipzig to pursue his medical studies, he was induced to consult Hahnemann who then practiced in that town, in the year 1815, and soon became one of his most devoted disciples. He graduated in 1817 in Halle, and then settled in Jüterbogk as a Homœopathic physician, where he met with the usual amount of opposition and ill-feeling from his Allopathic colleagues and the chemists. In the latter years of his life his practice averaged about 3000 patients per annum, whose cases he always registered in the most accurate manner. In 1827 Hahnemann invited Drs. Stapf and Gross to visit him, and he then imparted to them his theory of chronic diseases, and the effects of some of those remedies which have since been termed *antipsorics*. In 1834 a severe acute disease nearly proved fatal to him, and again in 1837 he was affected with a hepatic disease, with jaundice and dropsy, from which he was not expected to recover. In 1843 he was appointed by the King of Prussia, member of the board of examiners for Homœopathic physicians. In 1845 his malady increased to a frightful extent, and so altered his appearance that he looked like an old man of eighty. He partially recovered by the care of his friend Stapf, who took him home to his house; but having again returned to the arduous duties of his profession, his strength completely gave way, and on the 16th September, 1847, perceiving his dissolution approaching, he exclaimed, "I now have no more to hope for on earth, the account is closed, my path now tends upwards." He departed this life tranquilly and composedly on the morning of the 18th September.

Owing to his wretched health, which exercised an unfavorable influence on his mind as well as on his body. Dr. Gross was not at all calculated to impress one favorably at first sight, but a short intercourse with him soon revealed the richness of mind and the nobility of disposition concealed beneath the forbidding exterior. He was esteemed and loved by all who knew him, as a physician he inspired the greatest confidence, as a friend the warmest attachment. His character was open, true-hearted, truthful and honest. He was generally quiet, thoughtful, serious, sometimes apparently peevish, although at times he could be cheerful and gay, witty and humorous. His manner even to friends was dry, laconic, sometimes even harsh and rude. Although apparently phlegmatic, he was actually full of enthusiasm.

Notwithstanding occasional disputes and differences with Hahnemann, he continued to correspond with the illustrious founder of Homœopathy almost uninterruptedly to the last, and was esteemed by him as one of his best disciples.

Dr. v. Boninghausen will assume the post of co-editor of the *Neues Archiv*, which was formerly discharged with so much ability by Dr. Gross.—*Brit. Jour. Hom.*

NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL.

We have before us a letter from Dr. Hilbers, of Norwich, to the governors of the above hospital, soliciting their votes at the ensuing election of a physician for that institution, in room of Dr. Lubbock deceased.

As this is the first instance that has come under our observation of a Homœopathic physician trying for an appointment to a public hospital, we deem it worthy of notice. Dr. Hilbers' letter is written in a modest, tolerant, and earnest spirit. He gives a brief account of the spread of Homœopathic principles among the medical profession, instances a few examples of its superiority over the treatment of the old school, and grounds his appeal to the electors more upon the merits of the system he practices, and the benefits which must accrue to the suffering poor from its introduction into the hospital, than on his own personal deserts, though in the matter of qualification he does not fear the strictest scrutiny.

Though we scarcely entertain a hope that Dr. Hilbers will be elected to the office of physician of the hospital, yet we are glad to see the trial made, for with our convictions that the system of medicine we practice is the only true one, and calculated to be of so much service to the sick, we should be wanting in true moral courage did we allow the fear, or perhaps the certainty, of rejection to deter us from offering our services in behalf of our fellow-creatures; the onus of depriving the sick poor of the blessings of Homœopathy lies with those who reject our offers. We hope the spirited example shown by Dr. Hilbers will be generally followed whenever a vacancy occurs in a public hospital in any town where there is a Homœopathist. The mode of electing physicians in England offers peculiar facilities for the appointment of a Homœopathic Physician to an hospital, and we are convinced that our cause will be much more benefited by our obtaining an entrance into existing hospitals, than by the most brilliant statistical reports proceeding from an institution established for the express purpose of carrying out our system.

Brit. Jour. Homœopathy.

We are vexed at the complaints that reach us from a few of our subscribers, that they do not receive this Journal regularly. The fault is with the Post-office department, and not with our office. The Journal is regularly mailed, as soon as it comes from the press, to each subscriber.

There is remissness in the Post-office at Washington, for all the journals for that city are packed in one bundle, and if one reaches there, all must. The same applies to the Post-office in Baltimore.

Complaints from two towns have been made that the Post Masters are so opposed to Homœopathy, that they avoid the delivery of this Journal to subscribers in those towns. To obviate this evil, one subscriber requests us to envelope the Journal in a peculiar way and direct it to Mr. — instead of Doctor, so that the character of the paper may not be detected by the Post Master. We do not know the fact, but we *guess* that these officials are allopathic doctors of the very smallest kind; but we hope, for the credit of the profession, there are no "more of the same sort."

We thank our friends for the interest they have taken in extending the circulation of this Journal. Our circulation is rapidly increasing, but there is one small matter which, if agreeable to those concerned, we should like to have attended to. We have received several very respectable lists of names as subscribers, with these words, "the money will be forthcoming"—but it has not come. Now we will, in the most respectful manner possible, just take this occasion to say, that we need every dollar that is due us on account of this publication. Have the kindness to oblige us, so soon as you have read this notice, by inclosing the amount due in a letter, directed to the Editor of the American Journal of Homœopathy, No. 762 Broadway, New York city; and place it in your Post-office, and we will take the risk of its reaching us, and if you prefer it, we will pay the postage.

Dr. Wheaton's letter has been mislaid—if found it will appear in the next number.

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THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. 3.

New York, November, 1848.

NO. 7.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1848.

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## THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE IN THE ALLOPATHIC SCHOOL REDUCED TO A CATHARTIC.

The above heading may to some seem unjust. However this may be, we are of opinion that if Allopathic practice be carefully and thoroughly analyzed, the title of this article would be found nearer the truth, than indicated at first sight.

The science of medicine is far, very far, in advance of the art of medicine in the Allopathic school. While diseases have been investigated, with ability, zeal, and success; their treatment, virtually, continues unchanged.

We do not use the term cathartic precisely in the ordinary sense of that word in Allopathic therapeutics; we mean to illustrate by it, whatever diminishes the fluids of the animal body. The term evacuant expresses our meaning better.

In fever, even before its form or type is distinguished, evacuating means are employed,

and the system reduced below a point of reaction against the cause which gave rise to the fever, which reaction, when left undisturbed by evacuants, would indicate the true character of the disease; but by such practice the patient sinks into a low nervous or typhoid state, which is looked upon as the natural course of the disease, whereas it is owing to the debility of the system, induced by the unscientific means employed to relieve the first sufferings of the patient.

Is there bleeding from the lungs, indicative of tubercles? the patient is bled from the arm, and at once reduced to so low a state as to diminish the power of the system to react, and death supervenes, even when, as yet, there has been neither cough or expectoration. We have seen similar cases, and it is a duty we owe to the public, to caution it against such practice. Is there Dysentery? the evacuating means employed goes to place the system in a condition to give rise to glandular inflammation and suppuration; which, being mistaken for a protracted and obstinate case, the patient sinks, and the disorganization of parts removes for ever all prospect of recovery.

We know the fact, that opium, allopathically administered to young persons, especially children, in dysentery, almost invariably results in death, by what is termed dropsy in the brain. In convulsions in females before delivery; which in themselves indicate a debilitated state of the system—a want of nervous power to control muscular action: bleeding is resorted to, together with other evacuants: and afterwards peritoneal inflammation, or anasarca, or other morbid conditions, the result of debility, ensue.

We might multiply examples, to show that Allopathic practice essentially consists in evacuants, and which is, with scarcely a single exception, more or less pernicious.

We have more to say on this subject.

[For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

DR. KIRBY :

I send you, for publication, two cases remarkable for similarity in history and progress, and for the opposite manner of their termination.

Very truly yours,

R. A. SNOW.

New York, October, 1848.

*The History of a Case, terminating fatally from swallowing a Plum-stone. By Dr. George Borthwick, Kilkenny.*

S. W—, a boy between four and five years old, was brought to me on the 28th August, 1795, apparently in a state of suffocation, from having swallowed a plum-stone about five minutes before. I immediately introduced my fore finger into the pharynx, as far as it could reach, but discovered no extraneous body. I then made the child endeavor to swallow a mouthful of water, which seemed to go down with some difficulty, but for a few moments afterwards, seemed to lessen the pain and other symptoms. They soon, however, returned with equal violence. But after the child had at intervals swallowed five or six draughts of water, he said he found himself perfectly well, the great pain in the throat, and strangulating appearance of breathing, being altogether gone: On which he walked home, about ten minutes after he was brought to me.

He that day dined with a good appetite; was free from any symptom of suffering during the afternoon; took his supper as usual; had a good night; and, in the morning, was in perfect health, and breakfasted with a good appetite, having had no return of pain.

But a sudden change occurred in the forenoon. He complained of violent pain in the throat, about half way between its upper part and the sternum; the muscles of the face became frequently convulsed; and a violent cough took place. This pain was not increased on swallowing, nor did there seem to be any mechanical obstruction in the œsophagus; but after every fit of coughing, he complained much of pain; his respiration was quick and laborious; his face red, and somewhat turgid, attended with prostration of strength, and great frequency of pulse.

I thought it rather difficult to account for such a sudden attack of these symptoms; yet I thought the most reasonable conjecture was,

that as the stone might have produced much irritation in its passage, the present symptoms proceeded from the accession of inflammation in consequence of this irritation, and might be propagated from the œsophagus to the trachea. Under this impression, the patient was bled freely, both by venesection, and by leeches applied to the part affected. As the cough was severe, a blister was laid on the breast, and one on the back. Gentle purgatives were given, and the stools regularly examined.

During the fourth and fifth days, the symptoms were more moderate, but not removed; the patient had a tolerable appetite; and deglutition gave no pain; but on every fit of coughing, he still complained of great pain in the throat; and at this period the stone had not passed per anum. Drs. Baker and Butler were now called in, who reckoned it improbable, from the history of the case, that the stone remained in the œsophagus: on the strictest examination with the fingers externally, on the course of the trachea and œsophagus, nothing could be discovered; nor did pressure on any part give pain.

As the antiphlogistic plan had been carried to a sufficient length, it was agreed on in consultation to lessen the irritation by the use of opiates at proper intervals, and to keep the bowels moderately open. This lessened the frequency, though not the violence of the cough, every fit of which had a suffocating look, until a copious discharge of mucous put an end to the paroxysm.

The patient continued in this way for six or seven days, frequently appearing cheerful, and having a good appetite for several hours in the day; at other times languid, and disliking food, the pain in the throat, on every fit of coughing, continuing as before. As the stone had now been swallowed above ten days, and had not passed per anum, together with the circumstance of the pain in the throat still continuing, we agreed to introduce the probang, from a suspicion that the stone might be lurking in some part of the œsophagus.

The probang was cautiously introduced completely into the stomach; and being withdrawn, the patient said, that the pain so constantly felt was now perfectly gone. He soon went to sleep, and continued free from cough for more than twenty four hours, without the use of the opiate. This speedy amendment succeeding the use of the probang, inclined us to think, that the appearances on the day of the accident had been deceitful, and that, till



now, the stone had been in the œsophagus; and as the probang seemed to have been so effectually used, we expected that the case would not be attended with any further trouble or danger.

In this we were much disappointed; for on the second day after the use of the probang, the cough and laborious respiration became as severe as formerly, with this difference, that the patient said he had no return of the pain formerly felt in the throat. The expectoration now had a more uniform appearance, and was often streaked with blood. We were obliged to use the opiates as circumstances required. The patient's appetite was in general pretty good: on some days he was cheerful and did not cough much; on others he was languid and distressed with coughing. In this way he continued until the 30th of September, when he died suddenly and unexpectedly. During two days before his death, he seemed to be in every respect better; slept well the night before he died; was cheerful when he awaked, and took his breakfast.

His mother, wishing to have the room he was in washed out, had him carefully conveyed to her own bed in an adjoining room. As soon as he was laid down, an effort to cough came on, which seemed to meet with some obstruction; on which his whole body became convulsed for a few seconds; and, after remaining in a state of insensibility for an hour, he expired.

On examining the body, the plumb-stone was found in the lower extremity of the trachea, where it divides. The inner membrane of the trachea was much inflamed, as were also the lungs which adhered strongly on each side to the pleura costalis.

We certify that the history of this case and appearances on dissection, are correctly stated.

Signed, JOHN BAKER, M. D.  
ED. BUTLER, M. D.

Kilkenny, Oct. 13, 1795.

REMARKS.—In this case there was much singularity, from the child's continuing well until the day after the accident. There was every ground to believe that the stone had passed the œsophagus soon after being swallowed, since, during the first day and night, there were no symptoms that could induce any suspicion of its having taken a different road.

I have stated, that the use of the probang several days subsequent to the accident, produced great relief for twenty-four hours, and

a removal of the pain in the throat, so constantly complained of. It is probable, that the probang, though in the œsophagus, changed the situation of the stone in the trachea to another place, where for some time it gave no irritation; but as soon as irritation was produced, the violent cough returned. This is rendered probable, when we recollect, that in the first instance, the child continued for more than twenty-four hours free from uneasiness, after the stone had fairly got into the trachea.

It would seem that previous to the use of the probang, the stone was fixed in the trachea, about midway between the larynx and the sternum, where the pain was always felt; and that afterwards it was not stationary, unless from its own gravity. It is probable, that when the child was brought to me, the violent symptoms were owing to the stone being only in its passage through the larynx or glottis; for although I felt no extraneous substance, the introduction of the finger would most likely push down the epiglottis; and therefore, though the stone might be partly in the glottis, it could not have been discovered. The possibility of such an occurrence should be kept in view by practitioners, as there might be a chance of extracting the extraneous body; or, should it escape into the trachea, a knowledge of this fact would govern the prognosis and future treatment with more precision.

Had it been certainly known, that the stone was in the trachea, it is probable, that if bronchotomy had been performed on that part of the trachea where the pain was felt, the stone might have been extracted, and the patient saved. Although no particular spot should be pointed out by pain, yet, if there is a certainty of an extraneous body having got through the larynx, which is not likely to be thrown up by coughing, the operation might be warantable; and, by proper forceps, the body might be laid hold of and extracted, though at some distance from the opening made in the trachea. Where any doubt may remain of the extraneous body having got into the trachea, a surer diagnosis perhaps could not be found than the history and dissection of this case afford.

*The History of a Case terminating favorably after swallowing a Tamarind-pit. By Dr. Snow of New York.*

I was called on Wednesday morning at 6



o'clock, on the 17th of May last, to see J. H., a lad six years old.

From the description given, supposing it to be a case of strangulation, requiring the immediate application of surgical means, I requested my friend, Dr. McVickar, to accompany me. We found the patient with a rapid pulse, burning skin, livid complexion, choking, suffocative cough, anxious and labored respiration. He had been in this condition for several hours.

It seems that on the Monday evening previous, with other children, he was playing with *Tamarind-pits*. Holding his head in an elevated position, he tossed one of the pits into his mouth, and was immediately attacked with coughing and strangulation, was greatly frightened, blue in the face and much distressed for breath. Soon the paroxysm subsided, he regained his usual appearance, and nothing more was thought of the occurrence.

Examination of the chest showed equal clearness of sound on percussion over both lungs, while over the left lung there was a total absence of respiratory sound, whereas that of the right lung was much exaggerated. From these signs, in connection with the history of the case it was diagnosed as a lodgment of a foreign body in the left bifurcation of the trachea. This information was at once communicated to the father, the imminent danger in the case clearly stated, together with the assurance that in all probability an operation for the removal of the foreign body from the bronchial tube would be indispensable to the safety of the child, and offered the only prospect of relief; at the same time it was remarked that in the efforts of coughing the cause of obstruction might be expelled—although such a result was rather to be desired than calculated upon.

In the course of the morning, Dr. Hosack, by request, met Dr. McVickar and myself in consultation, and again at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. In the meantime aconite and arnica in solution had been given, and the patient had become more quiet—the violence of the symptoms had materially abated. On account of the wishes of the parents, and as the patient was so much more quiet, it was thought best to postpone an operation until the symptoms became more urgent. As to the nature of the case, and the necessity for an operation, there was no difference of opinion.

For several days the fever continued, there were frequent paroxysms of coughing and

dyspnœa; the little fellow lost all appetite, his strength rapidly failed, and to all appearance the case was about to terminate fatally. The child inherited a nervous, susceptible constitution, and the parents feared that he never could survive an operation; nor, indeed, at this time, did an operation promise to be successful. Subsequently, however, his parents became more reconciled to it, and it was determined to embrace the earliest favorable opportunity to perform it. After a few days the fever abated, but returned at intervals, assuming an intermitting character. The cough and dyspnœa also recurred at frequent intervals, but the respiration was constantly labored, and at no time was the passage of air detected in the left lung.

The patient wore an anxious and painful expression of countenance, was exceedingly irritable, restless and thirsty. For two weeks he took no sort of nourishment save water, and became greatly debilitated and wasted in flesh. He complained much of pain in the region of the umbilicus, and subsequently over the left clavicle. During the succeeding two or three weeks, his cough became somewhat loose, the paroxysms of coughing, though not so frequent, were more severe, and at such times, his sufferings amounted to intense agony. Arsenicum and Phosphorus were administered, and both appeared materially to palliate the cough and dyspnœa.

In the fourth week there was at times a slight return of the appetite, and in the apyrexia, particularly every other day, the child appeared much better, would sit up, and, show an inclination to be amused.

On sitting the patient erect, the left shoulder was found to be from one to two inches lower than the right, and there was considerable concavity at the left side of the chest.

After the fourth week, his appetite and strength continued to improve, and, by turn, he was comfortable and playful. The paroxysms of cough and choking were not so frequent, but still painfully severe and threatening, during which there was vomiting of food, and expectoration of mucous.

During the sixth week he was attacked with a severe and prolonged fit of coughing, and expectorated a good deal of mucous, in which his mother observed "a dark looking substance," but it did not, at the time, occur to her to examine it—a circumstance since much regretted by herself and friends. From this time the patient began to recover; the



cough abated, his appetite increased; he regained flesh; and was soon at play. For three or four weeks he had some cough and mucous expectoration.

During the whole period several Homœopathic medicines (and none other) were administered, but none with so much apparent benefit as Phosphorous 30. This always seemed to palliate his cough and it finally disappeared under its employment. The child has since become (and is at this time,) remarkably healthy robust and active.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.—There are one or two points in the above cases we think worthy of remark. 1st, In the first case the child was treated antiphlogistically, which diminished greatly the vital power; and in the other case, what was done tended to preserve it. 2nd, The latter case shows what is acknowledged by the profession, the remarkable efforts which nature makes to relieve the human system of foreign bodies; and all interference by art should correspond to the action of the vital power in the work she is accomplishing, which was done by the remedies administered. In the first case the heroic treatment must have diminished the vital force, and induced the very pathological condition which proved fatal. The remedies in the second case were suited to mucous membrane inflammation in the trachea and lungs, at the same time they did not interfere with the activity of nature's laws by which the happy result was accomplished. Is it not reasonable to suppose that the violent means employed in the first case had much to do with the result? And is it not also equally reasonable to conclude that had similar means been used in the second case there would have been a different result? Such is our opinion.

THE ANNALIST, A Record of Practical Medicine in the City of New York.—  
Edited by N. S. DAVIS, M. D.

The first number of Vol. 3 of this Allopathic periodical has just appeared, under the supervision of a new editor. We do not know if he has had experience in journalism; if he has not, this No. shows him possessed of ability, and we should think the Allopathic school would sustain his Journal by a large increase of subscribers.

We extract the following case, which seems to us rather weak and imperfect testimony against Homœopathy. We presume it was

inserted to gratify a personal friend, for the editor surely could not have regarded it a just criticism even if the statement of the case was true.

For the Annalist.

## INEFFICIENCY OF HOMŒOPATHY.

MR. EDITOR:

Noticing in the Annalist a few weeks since, a request that physicians would communicate such cases, illustrating the inefficiency of the Homœopathic mode of treating diseases as should come under their observation, I send you the following which is at your disposal:

Mr. A. B., boatman, aged 20 years, good constitution, was taken with chills, pain in the head, back and limbs; followed by thirst, furred tongue and all the symptoms of a moderate attack of the Billious Fever. Two genuine disciples of Hahnemann were called, and the patient was forthwith put on the regular homœopathic treatment. During the first eight or nine days, the patient had no evacuation whatever from the alimentary canal, and the fever continued without any abatement. At this period free spontaneous evacuations from the bowels took place, and the continued fever soon gave place to an intermittent of the quotidian type. Still the regular Homœopathic infinitesimal system was steadily persevered in, and the patient's paroxysms of chills and fever continued regularly to recur for more than six weeks, at the end of which time, the canal having opened for the commencement of Spring business, he was carried on board of his boat and started off. How long he continued sick, or continued to follow the system of Homœopathy after this, I do not know.

Here was a strong, robust young man, experiencing, what we in the country call, a simple "billious attack," which, with proper and efficient treatment, never lasted longer than from three to seven days, confined to his house two months, compelled to hire a man to run his boat one trip at an expense of \$50, and is finally carried on board himself, still an invalid in the hands of Homœopathic quackery. If you wish for any more perfect illustration of the total inefficiency of *genuine* homœopathy, in the treatment of one of the most curable forms of disease, I will endeavor to supply it on some future occasion; for the materials for so doing are abundant in this region.

Yours truly, C. T.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Aug. 20, 1818.

The main object in placing the above article before our readers, is to show, to what despicable shifts our opponents resort, for the purpose of arresting the progress of homœopathy. We will, however, avail ourselves of the occasion to say, first: The term "Billious Fever" is usually employed by Allopathic physicians rather indefinitely; and there are too many letters in the word by an L.



Second: A genuine bilious remittent fever is very often followed by "an intermitent fever of the quotidian type," in allopathic practice, which will not be denied by the experienced senior members of the profession. As it regards the case of the "boatman," it is very doubtful if it was a bilious fever at all; however this may be, the writer does not prove it to have been so, by his description of it; he simply asserts that it was so—although he does not say that he himself saw the case. C. T. relies very much on the gullibility of his readers, or he is exceedingly ignorant of what he wrote about. From Dr. Watson's "Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic," a standard work in the allopathic school, may be read on page 965, on bilious remittent fever. "There are always, however, certain prominent symptoms, invariably present, an attention to which will lead at once to an accurate diagnosis:—These are, gastric irritability, a sense of oppression and distress at the epigastrium, pain of the head, back, and limbs, and the great prostration of strength early exhibited by the patient." It will soon be perceived that the above case, even if what is stated was true, may not have been, at the commencement, a bilious fever. To our mind it was the incipient stage of an intermittent fever, because we have seen the like in many instances. Assuming it to be such, we have only to remark, what is well known to the intelligent Editor of the *Annalist*, if not to his correspondent, that their own school possess no reliable means for its cure; and that the article of quinine, which has been so much employed for suppressing the chills, is now in many parts of the country abandoned, because of its uncertainty, even for this purpose, and because of its well known injurious effects upon the constitution. And further, the work from which we have quoted, declares, "bilious remittent fever is closely allied in its nature to intermittent fever, of which, by many, it is considered as a mere modification." The same author speaks of the "milder" forms of the disease, which, under appropriate Allopathic treatment, "the remissions are more distinct, and of longer continuance, until finally a complete intermission occurs, followed by a state of convalescence—which is usually protracted." Admit that the above case reported by C. T. was a simple bilious fever. Had he grounds to draw an inference, prejudicial to the treatment of the case, on account of the development of "an intermittent fever of the

quotidian type," and the recovery protracted? We think not. For the best authorities of his own school testify that bilious fever may continue, "thirty, thirty-five, and fifty days."

It is probable that scarcely two allopathic practitioners would agree as to what constitutes a simple bilious fever; or, as C. T. has it "simple bilious attack." From the article before us, the colleagues of the writer may learn something; for he teaches that, that is a "simple bilious attack," which, "with proper and efficient treatment, never lasted longer than from three to seven days." A fair inference from this is, that if it continues a longer period it becomes something else; and if such cases do not recover within three or four or more months, as not unfrequently happens with "efficient" allopathic treatment, it must be set down as remarkably severe or obstinate. We will briefly examine this doctrine, for we have doubts about it. That physician who can distinguish at the commencement a "moderate attack of bilious fever," which shall run only three or seven days; from one that, under any treatment, will run from fifteen to fifty days, possesses more skill in prognosis than any one, yet known. Perhaps C. T. of Binghamton, N. Y., is the man who is endowed with intuition in prognosis—it can only be intuition: for the subject will not admit of reasoning; unless the fact, that generally the milder the symptoms at the beginning, the more severe and long continued will be the fever, furnishes a ground for reasoning; which, in the case under notice, proves any thing but the "inefficiency of homœopathy."

Third—C. T. says: "Two genuine disciples of Hahnemann were called, and the patient was forthwith put on *regular* homœopathic treatment." How absurd to call this, as he does, "homœopathic quackery." Admit the thing to be "genuine," and then call it a counterfeit.

There is but one point in the case as reported. It is this: The chills and fever continued six weeks under homœopathic treatment; and for ought the writer knows, the "boatman" was well after that period. This is, indeed, wonderful!!! But we can do better—we can give well authenticated cases of bilious fever, which become intermittent fever—treated allopathically, from six months to two years, and not cured; although they had "efficient treatment," yet it was very far from being "proper." Two of these cases were subsequently permanently cured by the 30th



attenuations of the homœopathic remedies.

Finally: We do not object to honest reports of cases of the failures of homœopathic treatment, but, on the contrary, we would encourage such reports. But if the *Annalist* thinks he can arrest the spread of homœopathy, by admitting into his columns communications of the character of that of C. T., we are quite certain he will fail—utterly fail, to accomplish that object.

We really have a favorable opinion of the ability of the Editor of the *Annalist*, and it does seem to us, that he intended to administer reproof to his correspondent, by the publication of his article without correction or comment.

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For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

MY DEAR SIR:

I send you the following, conceiving it may be of value to some of your readers, as it is one of those cases which have, as yet, been seldom treated Homœopathically. The remedies which *appear* to have been curative, are well worthy of trial in similar cases; and it is to be hoped that those who may have opportunities, and especially those who may be successful, will communicate the results. It is extracted from a late French journal.

Yours truly,

JAMES KITCHEN,  
39 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

#### A SARCOMATO-FUNGOUS POLYPUS OF THE RIGHT NASAL FOSSA.

In July, 1846, I was consulted by a lady 34 years old, of a light complexion, very delicate, very excitable, and of a lymphatic nervous temperament.

I had already given her advice on several occasions, particularly for gastralgia and leucorrhœa, and for fluent coryzas of great intensity, with fever and intense pain in the frontal and maxillary sinews. She has had a papular eruption on her face since birth. For about six weeks previous, she had been troubled with frequent and profuse epistaxis—at the same time, the right nostril appeared to be obstructed by impetiginous crusts. I gave her sulph. trit., 2 glob. 600.

Fifteen days after, she had a much more intense coryza than ever—it consisted in a discharge of very profuse burning serosity from both nostrils, with excessively painful headache, which extended to the orbits, the bones of the nose, to the maxillary bones, with burn-

ing fever and general prostration. I left her merc. solub. 30, to smell, and the next day the coryza had ceased.

During this, the affection of the right nasal fossa had advanced—respiration was almost impossible on that side—and nostril evidently dilated. Moreover, there was an ichorous running, which had an odour of old herring, and soon became very fetid. On examination, I then discovered a tumour of the size and form of a kidney bean, partly fungous and partly sarcomatous, very vascular—and easily bleeding. I gave lachesis 30; under its influence the ichorous discharge at first lost its fœtor, and, after a short time, became perfectly inodorous and much less abundant. For fifteen days, the tumor remained stationary—it then commenced swelling; the patient complained of a feeling of tension in the nose, and of an insupportable anxiety.

From the gravity of the case, Mr. Leon Simon was consulted, who agreed with me in diagnosis, but thought the case should be referred to an experienced surgeon, on account of the anxiety of the family.

M. Maissonneuve, Surgeon-in-chief of the Bicêtre, accustomed to see all sorts of such cases, diagnosticated a sarcomato-fungous polypus, invading the frontal and maxillary fossa—and having a manifest tendency to become cancerous, he recommended the ligature and cauterization.

In addition, Messrs. Roux and Velpeau were separately consulted. The first agreed with Monsieur M., as to its nature and treatment. M. Velpeau, considering that it was already in a cancerous state, advised the repression of it by the sulphate of alumine, reserving the operation to the last.

Taking every thing into consideration, we agreed in accordance with the wishes of the family to try Homœopathic measures, and, accordingly, on the 28th September, we administered Phos. 200<sup>c</sup>, 2 globules, dry on the tongue. Symptoms 374, 375, 384, 385, 395, 396, 400, 434, combined with 1142, 1145, 1146, 1154, and 1156, were the motives which determined our choice. To the 10th October there was no change; but dating from that day, the congestion of the nose diminished, the tumor lessened, and an evident amelioration took place. Nevertheless the discharge was abundant—but it was inodorous, up to the 21st October, when it diminished in a very appreciable manner to cease altogether on the 25th of the same month.

At this time, the tumor presented the volume and form of a strawberry—the fungous part had disappeared—he was left only the sarcomatous portion, which was of a violet red.

During the first days of November, the tumor remained stationary. On the 7th he gave *Ars. 2 glob. 800<sup>o</sup>*, dry. On the 14th, it was reduced to the size of a pea, its form the same—the violet color was changed to a dark red. It remained the same to Dec. 14. We then gave *Silic. 2 glob. 200<sup>o</sup>*, dry. At the end of January, there was not a trace of the tumor, and the mucous membrane had regained its normal color. The ichorous discharge, and pains formerly experienced, have not returned.

### HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

We congratulate the friends of true medical science on the establishment of the above named college. The very modest circular, which we publish in another column, indicates that the course of studies will be superior to any similar institution in America. The charter of the "Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania" requires, that all the branches in medicine and surgery must be taught as in other medical schools in this country; embracing also that system of medicine designated by the term Homœopathy. The graduates of this college, we do not doubt, will receive that confidence which is due to thoroughly educated physicians. For, from our knowledge of most of the professors, we do not believe that a student will be admitted by them to the degree of Doctor in Medicine, who is not found duly qualified.

In concluding this very brief notice, we will admit that we are not without some feelings of mortification that our sister city should entitle herself to the high honor of organizing the first college of the Homœopathic school. We did hope that New York would have secured that honor; but it is otherwise; and we will submit with the best of feelings, and promise what little influence we can exert in favor of the Philadelphia enterprise. This remark reminds us of a fact, which has often been the subject of conversation, and which may be useful if generally known. The Homœopathic school, in its aspect to the public, differs in the two cities. That difference consists in this: in New York the character of

Homœopathy was represented by a class of practitioners who were what has been termed "mixed men," or, more properly, "*eclectics*." In Philadelphia, on the contrary, the controlling influence has always been in favor of pure, unmixed Homœopathy: and although there were a number of practitioners who were regarded unsound in doctrine and practice, they were in the minority and did but little harm if compared with New York. This state of things has always given the former city the advantage of the latter, and the same may be said of the two states. We do not intend to be understood to assert that pure Homœopathy is not now in the ascendant in New York; this is even so, and we are happy to be able to announce it; at the same time, it will take perhaps years to remove the pernicious effects of "*eclecticism*" which has been practiced in the name of Homœopathy in this city.

We will remark finally, that we confidently rely upon the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania for the promulgation of the true science and art in medicine, and also to furnish a supply to the very large demand for well-qualified Homœopathic practitioners in almost every part of these United States.

### THE HIGH POTENCIES.

We are glad to see the number of those who employ the higher potencies of attenuated medicines increase.

The mode of preparing medicines which was invented by Hahnemann, furnishes to the physician a wide scope for the exercise of tact and judgment in the selection of doses adapted to the particular circumstances of the case, the susceptibility of constitution, &c.

The physician who, by experience, has learned the value of these attenuations, has a greater number of tools to work with—tools of a finer quality and of greater efficiency.

Disease may be combatted, the curative operations of the organism interrupted, and for the time, suspended by large doses—often the more readily for being homœopathically indicated; and to the superficial physician and the ignorant patient a cure seems to have been effected, while only an alteration or palliation of the morbid symptoms has been accomplished.

The attenuation of medicines increase their curative effect, they excite the reaction of the



vital forces by virtue of their dynamic power.

It will be acknowledged that the best recorded cases of cures, are made by medicines highly potentized—we are sure this corresponds to our own experience, and to that of those who have habitually employed them.

The Dysentery which so much prevails at this season, we have often seen cases rendered obstinate and unmanageable by the repeated use of large doses, while as often have we seen immediate cures effected by single doses of potentized medicine.

A case we have in mind of ten days continuance, in which ars. mur. mer. sulph. had been used in the 3d and 30th, was at once arrested by a single dose of sulph. 400; and we could multiply examples and gather them from the practice of many about us.

Their employment requires exact knowledge of the medicine and of its peculiar adaptation to the cases in which they may be given, but we are sure that physicians would be well repaid for their care and study in the knowledge which would be thus furnished them, of means of superior power and efficacy.

#### CIRCULAR.

The Subscriber proposes to issue on the first of January, 1849, (provided the number of Subscribers will warrant it) the first number of a

#### QUARTERLY

#### HOMŒOPATHIC JOURNAL,

the contents of which will consist mainly of translations from the latest and best German and French Homœopathic periodicals, embracing Therapeutics, additions to the *Materia Medica*, re-provings of drugs, reports of remarkable cases, endemics and epidemics, clinique, intelligence respecting the progress of the system, correspondence, statistical information, &c.

The selections will be made, with the view of furnishing the American reader with practical and scientific information, avoiding as much as possible articles of a polemic character, from the following Journals: *Hygiea*; *Oest. Beobachter*; *Archiv*; *Annalen*; *Hom. Zeitung*; *Journal de la médecine Homœopathique*; *Bulletin de la société de médecine Homœopathique*, &c.

The German and French Homœopathic literature of the day is full of interest and instruction to the practitioner, and as many of our physicians are not acquainted with these languages, the Subscriber hopes that the Journal contemplated by him will prove acceptable to the profession.

At the same time the columns shall be open to communications from physicians at home, who are hereby respectfully requested to contribute.

The translations will be made, and the Journal conducted by A. C. Becker, M. D.

It will contain 144 pages octavo, and in size and typography will be similar to the *British Journal of Homœopathy*.

Price three dollars a year, payable on the delivery of the first number. Communications to be sent, post-paid, to the care of the publisher.

OTIS CLAPP, PUBLISHER,  
23 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON.

We publish the above Circular at the request of Mr. Clapp, and will give the enterprise our hearty co-operation; provided the "Quarterly Homœopathic Journal" does not attempt to advocate the doctrines contained in a certain pamphlet compiled by Dr. Becker, entitled "Allopathy, Hahnemannism and Rational Homœopathy." Dr. B., in our humble opinion, will find it no easy task to secure the confidence of the homœopathic school, unless he repudiates the "eclecticism" of that pamphlet. Assuming that this will be done, we do not hesitate to say, that a work of the character described in the Circular, is greatly needed, and we hope physicians of our school will at once send their names to the publisher as subscribers. Dr. Becker has the reputation of a good translator, and much, almost indispensable information, is contained in the works named in the Circular.

#### MEDICAL LECTURES.

The season is approaching when the numerous schools of medicine in the United States will be in a state of activity. There is doubtless a decided choice among them, and it is of consequence to have reference to the fitness of the men who give the courses of instruction. While some talk, and others read the opinions and suggestions of by-gone oracles, from year to year, without sufficient reference to the brilliant progress science is constantly making in every department of human knowledge, many actually feel their responsibility to students, and labor incessantly for storing their minds with important facts and established truths: they interpret nature, instead of glorifying themselves.

The magic of an individual name, it is feared, is the life-blood of some of these institutions, and their withdrawal, or decrease, might prove a death blow to some colleges. Real genius, moral worth and enterprise, seek no selfish ends, nor does their stability or usefulness depend on intrigue or false exhibitions of character. Medical schools, created not for the promotion of medical science, but for certain incumbents, without reference to their capacity or fitness for public teachers, if such there are, should be avoided. Is the public in an error in supposing that there are any such medical clap-traps?—

*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*



THE CONTAGION OF CHOLERA, THE  
CONDITION OF ITS SPREAD, AND  
THE LIABILITY OF INDIVID-  
UALS TO ATTACK, &c.

The continued prevalence of Cholera in some parts of Europe, and the probability of its extending westward, has caused the most diligent and scrutinizing search into the nature of its causes, the conditions of its spread, &c., on the part of the health officers and Sanitary Commissioners of London and other cities in the western part of Europe. These investigations have led to the publication of several reports and essays; among the most interesting and valuable of which, are two reports from the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of London; another by Alexander Thom, Esq., on the causes, character, and treatment of the Cholera in H. M. 86th Regiment at Karrachee, in June, 1816. an essay by Chas. Cowdel of London; and another by M. Bureau de Riosfrey of Paris. The substance of these several publications is contained in a long and exceedingly interesting article in the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review for July, 1845; and as every thing connected with the causes and spread of great epidemics, is of the utmost importance to the profession, we do not hesitate to lay the conclusions arrived at, by those engaged in the above mentioned investigations, before our readers. And we do this the more readily, because the same conclusions are equally applicable to the spread of Yellow Fever, Influenza, &c. The London Commissioners state, that the Cholera, in its spread through Europe, both in 1832-5, and at the present time, has almost uniformly made its first appearance in the lowest and dampest part of the city attacked. And we find this position also strongly insisted on by an able writer in the British and Foreign Review for April, 1847. This was true of Moscow, Warsaw and Berlin, St. Petersburg, Breslau, Paris, Carlisle, Manchester, London, and we may add New York also. Hence the Commissioners lay it down as a settled proposition, "that it is the combination of *humidity* with *impurity* of the atmosphere, which so powerfully predisposes to Cholera." The evidence on this point, if given in detail, would more than fill our whole journal, and is entirely conclusive. The next conclusion at which the Commissioners arrived, is, "that there is *no evidence* that Cholera spreads by the communication of the infected with the healthy." This has been abundantly proved in every country where the disease has made its appearance during the last twenty-five years. Thus, preceding the actual appearance of the Cholera at Trebizonde, at Astrakhan, and Moscow in 1847—the most rigid quarantine and precautionary measures were adopted; but without the slightest apparent effect in preventing the spread of the disease. In regard to the last named city the report says:—"That among all the physicians of Moscow, there is certainly not one who believes that a Cholera patient communicates the disease by the touch. Daily experience is too decided on this head."

The Italian and Swedish Commissioners are also equally decided on this point. Dr. Parkes also, who witnessed a severe epidemic of Cholera in the Tanasserim provinces in 1843, states that "the disease passed in a regular course through the country, nearly from North to South; its introduction into a place was *never* traced to intercourse; corps having free intercourse with infected districts wholly escaped," &c. Again, in 1843, a portion of H. M. 63d Regiment was attacked with cholera while marching from Madras to Bellary, and the authorities of the latter place at first refused to admit the affected corps, numbering about 600 men, into the town. But the weather being exceedingly hot, and the disease continuing more and more fatal while the soldiers were protected only by tents, they were admitted into the fort, and comfortably provided for in suitable buildings. Instead, however, of communicating the disease to the remaining soldiers of the fort, or to the inhabitants of the town, both remained wholly unaffected, and it rapidly disappeared from that part of the regiment which had just been so seriously afflicted. Proof, equally strong, was exhibited in France in 1836, when the Cholera prevailed very severely in Marseilles, and many thousand of its inhabitants fled to the neighboring city of Lyons without communicating a single case to the latter city. But it is not so much our purpose, in the present article, to multiply proof, as to state conclusions; and hence we will close the subject of contagion with the emphatic language of the review already referred to. The writer says, that "Cholera does not *require* human frames for its transit and its multiplication; it is not bounded in by lines, nor circumscribed by empty spaces; wherever it finds its conditions of existence it can spread, although for miles no man is found, whose frame may be the test of its power. This point we firmly believe is settled; it requires no qualification; it needs no further discussion." A third conclusion of the London commissioners is stated as follows, viz:—"That Cholera observes in its progress the laws of ordinary epidemics, being influenced by the same physical conditions, and attacking similar classes of persons."

Thus say they in their second report, "the Cholera districts, the Typhus districts, and the Influenza districts, are all the same; and the local conditions which favor the spread, and increase the intensity of these and all kindred diseases, are every where similar. The proof of this is found in the fact, that in the districts in which we have already shown that Cholera principally prevailed, and from which typhus is rarely absent, influenza was twice, and in some instances, four times as fatal, as in the more salubrious parts of London." The commissioners do not mean to assert here, that the cholera, influenza, &c., are always confined exclusively to fever districts; but only that the same physical conditions favor the spread and increase the intensity of all these diseases." "These conditions," say they, "may be comprised in *impure and humid air, unsuitable or*



*insufficient food, inefficient clothing or protection from cold, and ill constructed dwellings."* So uniform has been the influence of these conditions on the prevalence and severity of cholera, influenza, and epidemic fevers, both in Europe and Asia, that we may foretell, during any epidemic visitation, very certainly, both the localities and the class of people which will be chiefly affected. There are, however, several minor conditions besides those enumerated, which exert more or less influence; and of these perhaps the soil is the most important. Thus volcanic and sandy soils are said to be less favorable to the prevalence of these diseases than any others. This has been attributed to their greater power of absorbing water, and thereby lessening the humidity of the atmosphere. But we cannot follow either the London Commissioners, or any of the other writers we have named, through even a tithe of the evidence they have furnished, in regard to the three propositions we have stated.

The great practical inference, however, which we would deduce, and which we wish could be fully impressed on the whole human family, is this:—that however little we may know about the epidemic *principle* or essential cause of cholera, and other kindred diseases, it is certain that the conditions and circumstances on which its activity and destructive prevalence, almost entirely depends, are not only known and tangible, but are to a very great extent, under our own control. Thus we are taught by all the experience of the past, that, without *impure air, insufficient or unwholesome diet, or bad clothing*, no epidemic disease can become either extensively prevalent or fatal. Hence it is high time that all those, in whose hands are intrusted the sanitary regulation of cities, villages, &c., should, at least, turn a part of their attention from those quarantine and non-intercourse regulations, which are to some extent the off-springs of former errors, to the actual condition of the streets, lanes, alleys, cellars, and houses, within the bounds of their charge. For they may rest assured, that wherever the conditions we have enumerated, as favorable to the existence and spread of epidemics exist, there such diseases will find their way during the seasons of their prevalence, in spite of all the quarantine and non-intercourse regulations that ever emanated from legislative authorities. And, on the other hand, wherever a city is found *free* from these conditions, the inhabitants will be safe, even though an hundred infected individuals should be thrown into their midst. These are great and important truths, which have been abundantly illustrated by every epidemic that has prevailed during the last half century; and hence, they cannot be too strongly impressed on the profession, and through it, on the whole community.

*Annalist.*

## PRACTICAL SCHOOLS OF ANATOMY.

How does it happen that the ardor of former years for studying anatomy in private theatres,

and demonstrations under accurate teachers, has so generally subsided? Brilliant courses of lectures were formerly given in most of the Atlantic cities, during the progress of the public instructions in the schools of medicine, and not only with profit to those who improved the opportunity, but with the general approbation of the faculties of the regularly-organized institutions.

Dissecting rooms are appended to the medical colleges, as they should be, with a view to affording students an opportunity of becoming expert in dissection; but popular courses of anatomy, by private enterprise, have always been profitable to the hearers, however disastrous to those who bore the expense as well as labor.

A mad system of itinerating with a manikin has been much in vogue. People love to have their marvellousness excited by looking on while muscle after muscle is detached, dry as a ribbon—and a promiscuous assembly of men, women and children, imagine that the exhibiter who picks the artificial model of humanity to pieces so easily, must be a prodigiously-learned professor of exceedingly profound sciences. This racing over the country from village to village, and exhibiting the mysteries of animal organization with a manikin, is falsely called popular anatomy. The truth is, it is a superficial show of superficial things, and far too often by very superficial persons in pursuit of pence. A revivification of the old but excellent system of private courses of anatomy is unquestionably desirable in all the large cities, by which students and artists, and such others as might desire a general acquaintance of animal mechanism, as exhibited in the beautiful structure of the human frame, may be gratified and advanced in useful knowledge.

*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

## AMPUTATION.

### DEATH UNDER INHALATIONS OF CHLOROFORM.

M. Robert, surgeon of the "Hospital Beaujon," Paris, reports the following case: "A young man, twenty-one years of age, was admitted, on the 25th of June last, into the 'Hospital Beaujon,' for a severe fracture of the shaft of the femur, caused by a ball which had traversed the limb from before backwards. Disarticulation of the thigh was decided upon. The patient was put under the influence of chloroform by means of the apparatus, divided by a spiroid diaphragm made of netting, and provided with a large mouth-piece; the nose was secured by an assistant. In three or four minutes there were a few convulsive movements pointing to the period of excitement, and soon after a complete state of relaxation came on. A large anterior flap was then made, beginning three fingers' breadth below the anterior superior spine of the ilium; hardly any blood was lost. The patient at this moment woke, and M. Robert desired that more chloroform should be given, and continued the operation. Hardly had a quarter of a minute



elapsed, than a loud stertorous breathing was heard, and the apparatus was withdrawn. The patient's face was extremely pale, lips blanched, and the eyes, the pupils of which were greatly dilated, were drawn so high upwards as to be hidden by the upper lid. The operation was immediately suspended. The pulse at that time was hardly perceptible, all the limbs were in a state of complete relaxation, and the breathing was heard at long intervals. Frictions, irritation of the pleuritic membrane, forced movements of the arms and of the ribs, were resorted to; several times the respiration seemed to become more vigorous, and the pulse more distinct, but this was but a momentary improvement, and it was but too apparent, after three-quarters of an hour of incessant efforts on the part of the persons present, that the patient had ceased to exist. The sudden paleness of the skin, the annihilation of the pulse, evidently pointed to syncope; and as the latter cannot be ascribed either to hæmorrhage or a protracted operation, it must be concluded that syncope was the immediate result of the inhalations of chloroform; the more so, as none of the symptoms of the admission of air into the veins were present. The special kind of wound which the patient had received, as well as the stupor and shock consequent upon it, should, at the same time, be taken into consideration, besides the deep dejection and despair in which he was plunged."

After some discussion, it was decided in the Académie de Médecine that this case should be referred to the committee which is to present a report on ether.—[*Lond. Lancet.*]

#### MAL-PRACTICE IN MIDWIFERY.

One of those instances of apparently unpardonable violence or ignorance in an accoucher which have occasionally been reported as occurring, but which one of the oldest correspondents of this Journal some years ago thought was impossible in the hands of any medical man, is stated lately to have taken place in Staffordshire, Eng. W. H. Flint, who is represented as a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, was called to attend Mrs. Riley, in labor. "On making an examination he is said to have pronounced it a preternatural presentation, and to have sent the husband for his instruments. He appears to have been impressed with the necessity of turning, and he performed some manipulations, during which he told the women about him that he had turned. In subsequent manipulations he said he had delivered the woman of one child, and foretold the speedy delivery of another; but what he thus called a child, was proved by the evidence to have been a portion of the patient's intestine!" In endeavoring to effect delivery, it seems he also detached two of the limbs of the child, and the uterus was likewise ruptured. An open penknife was found in the bed after the death of the woman. He was indicted and tried for killing Mrs. Riley. On

the trial, it was elicited that the woman died from the rupture, upon which the judge stopped the case, and recommended the jury to say that the prisoner was not guilty, which they did, on the ground that the rupture might have proceeded from natural causes.

*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

*Mortality of Irish Medical Practitioners.*—Drs. Cosack and Stokes, in the Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science for August, 1847, and February, 1848, have drawn the attention of the profession and government to this subject. From these papers we learn that the number of practitioners of medicine in all Ireland is computed in round numbers at 2,700, one fifteenth of whom have died during the year 1847. Alas! how little the community are aware of the devotion and sacrifice of the medical profession on the altar of public weal! We subjoin the following deductions drawn by these gentlemen from their inquiries:

1. That the physicians and surgeons of Ireland, are, by their profession, more exposed to the influence of fatal diseases than any other class of the community of a similar grade; and that they are at all times liable to these influences, from the period of entering the profession as students to advanced life.

2. That few, if any, of the medical profession in Ireland, escape typhus fever; that many have had it twice, and several three times.

3. That the fevers of the medical men in Ireland are almost always of a bad character, even when the epidemic is not of the worst kind; and that, consequently, fever has proved more fatal to medical men than to any other class of the community of a similar grade in this country.

4. That the fevers and other infectious diseases, from which our profession suffers so severely, are generally contracted in the discharge of public duties, either in attendance upon sanitary institutions, or in the miserable, ill-ventilated and dirty dwellings of the poor.

5. That, according to our returns received for the period prior to 1843—undoubtedly deficient—568 out of 1220 practitioners in charge of medical institutions suffered from typhus fever; of these, twenty-eight had fever twice, and nine three times; and that, of the whole number, three hundred, or one-fourth, died.

6. That the calculations contained in the papers which we have now laid before the public show that, of 743 deaths of medical men, of which we possess the particulars, 331 were caused by typhus fever, or 1 in every 2.24; nearly forty-five per cent of the whole.

7. That, during the prevalence of the late epidemic, 500 Irish medical men, at the lowest computation, suffered from fever or other epidemic diseases, contracted, for the most part, in discharge of public duties, by which themselves and their families have suffered considerable loss.



8. That about one fifteenth of the medical community of Ireland have died during the year 1847.—*New York Jour. Med.*

*Pericarditis*.—It is important to notice that the pains accompanying chest diseases are often referred by the patient to situations inferior, in point of position, to those organs actually affected. This accounts for the frequency of liver affection as a clinical disease, and the rarity of its detection on post-mortem examination. The pains of pericarditis are mostly referred to the scrobiculus cordis or hypochondrium. In one case where Jaksch, misled by the symptoms, diagnosed inflammation of the diaphragm, copious pericarditic effusion was found after death.

*Hannoverische Annalen.*

A young man, while under the care of M. Robert, Surgeon of the "Hospital Beaujon," Paris, was placed under the influence of chloroform, to undergo amputation of the thighs at the hip-joint.

The operation was commenced and the patient awoke, when M. Robert directed him to repeat the inhalation. But scarcely had a quarter of a minute elapsed, when loud stertorous breathing began, and the inhalation was immediately stopped. The face became extremely pale, pupils dilated, and eyeballs strongly turned upwards. The operation was suspended, and every effort made to restore the patient, but without avail. He was dead.

*London Lancet.*

*Honorable Fees*.—We were recently called into consultation with the Professor of Obstetrics, &c., in the Medical College of Georgia, to attend a lady in puerperal convulsions. When the case terminated, a bank check, signed by the husband, who is a member of our bar, with the amount left blank, was sent to each of us.

*Another*.—We learn that a surgeon in Savannah, having operated successfully on the son of a lady in that city, had, besides his usual fee, a splendid case of surgical instruments presented to him by the grateful mother. These are truly green spots in the arid professional path, and we have to regret they are so far apart.—[*Southern Med. and Surg. Jour.*]

*The Eclectic Practitioners, or the so-called Practical Men*.—There are medical men in high positions, greatly occupied with numerous patients, who from a want of study, of intelligence, or of time, from a natural indolence, or from being too old to master recent important improvements, affect a supreme disdain for everything that concerns doctrine or generalization, either physiological or philosophical. They call themselves PRACTICAL men, and speak ironically of *theorists*—men of science or of the closet, such who labor most for the advancement of medical science, and

whose knowledge crushes and confounds them. These so-called practical men are those who have no doctrine and no general principles, who gather together ready-made formulæ and isolated cases, without any kind of scientific discernment. The only medicine they study is that contained in small books of prescriptions, published in 18mo. or 24mo., which they carry in their pocket, and know by heart. We have frequently had occasion to remark that a practical man, that is, a man who boasts of knowing nothing of scientific medicine, is a medical machine inferior intellectually to a master-mason, a locksmith, or a cabinet-maker, for these have principles and a sort of doctrine which they apply in their business. They were appreciated in like manner by a learned individual whose authority no one could doubt, and who said—"The true eclectic works without conviction, without principle, without idea. He is continually enlarging his circle, in order to enclose within it facts of the most contradictory nature—they sacrifice in a sort to every god, and create a kind of scientific atheism, not less fatal to true science than atheism properly so-called is to true religion.—*Professor Cruveilhier's Address to the Anatomical Society*, 1845.

MAYVILLE, N. Y., August, 1848.

DR. KIRBY:

*Dear Sir*—The time has come when the people begin to judge for themselves in matters relative to medicine as on other topics of the day. We often hear them asking questions like the following: "How is it that Homœopathic medicines operate as they do, for frequently they seem more powerful and prompt to relieve the suffering sick than the large and oft repeated doses of Allopathy." Such inquiries, emanating as they do from many intelligent lay men, are worthy of consideration. Let me briefly undertake to answer it.

"*Similia similibus curantur*," or like cures like, is the doctrine which every true Homœopath recognizes as the only infallible guide in the administration of medicine; and every medical man who has thoroughly tried it, will have perfect confidence in its success; and the reason of this success will appear plain with the annexed considerations.

If we take a candid view of health and disease, we must distinguish two distinct kinds or orders of originating forces; thus, a force which constitutes the harmony of the organism in its normal state, and a force which creates that disturbance of the organism which constitutes disease.

Now, experiment often tried, and experi-



ence too, have shown that in the various drugs which are used in medicine is found embodied this same disturbing force, or in other words, each and every drug has in itself the capability, when taken into the system, of creating a disease *sui generis*; and it is this power which constitutes its medicinal properties; and more, it is by virtue of this power that they are capable of curing disease at all. So far the Homœopathic doctrine amounts to a demonstration.

Let us now refer to the law exhibited above, and bear in mind that drugs cure disease only by virtue of their power to create disease; and one of two things must be true, either we must create a new and different disease to cure the existing one, or we must create one similar and like it to perform the cure. I am unable to discover how we shall gain any thing by the first course, for I have seen an individual afflicted with a fever sore for five years, attacked with a bilious fever, and the fever cured and the sore remain as it was. I have seen a man suffering with syphilis and delirium tremens at the same time. Again, I have seen a person in the last stage of confirmed phthisis bitten by a rabid dog and actually run mad, but finally cured of hydrophobia and died in three months of the former disease. Wherefore I am convinced that two diseases may exist on the same person at the same time, and to create the one will not cure the other. Hence, it is plain, I am driven to the only true and rational method of cure, *similia similibus curantur*.

Time forbids my carrying the subject farther. I shall reserve the *rationale* of attenuated doses for a future communication.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

C. C. CROSSFIELD, M. D.

LEXINGTON, Aug. 19, 1848.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.:

*Dear Sir*—Absence from home on family business has, until now, delayed this missive, much against my will. The circumstance alluded to has, hitherto, prevented me from carrying into execution the intentions expressed in my last letter to you, of giving a few lectures on the theory and practice of Homœopathy in this state. That difficulty, however, being nearly overcome, you may expect to hear from me shortly on that subject. Homœopathy has suffered a great deal in this vicinity from the circumstance that, until lately, the practice has been of the *mixed mode*.

Homœopathy certainly has suffered, does suffer, and will continue to suffer more from such mongrel practice than from any other cause.

Wishing your useful journal every success, I remain, dear sir,

Yours sincerely,

JAMES JONES, M. D.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., May 17, 1848.

DEAR SIR:

Inclosed I send one dollar for the "Journal of Homœopathy." Please enroll me as a subscriber.

I came directly here on leaving the city this Spring, and found many of the intelligent and influential citizens anxious to test the efficacy of Homœopathy, and have already administered to many who were tired of drugging for chronic diseases. It being very healthy, I have met with but few acute ones. My confidence is unlimited in the efficacy of the high potencies, if not too often repeated. I have succeeded in relieving many long-standing diseases by a single dose, and have the warmest assurances from my patients of full confidence in the practice. As an instance, I will relate a case. Miss B., aged 18, lymphatic temperament, was attacked on Friday evening with chills, and pain in back and limbs, followed by high fever, alternating with sweat. During the night, nausea—breath putrid and exceedingly oppressive—with rapid enlargement of tonsils and roots of tongue; the throat was nearly filled; moral dejection and manifest indifference. Saw her Saturday, 9th October, A. M.; gave 2 globules mer. 30. She began to convalesce in one hour; and was about the house as well as usual (weakness excepted,) on Monday.

Another—Mrs. B., aged 48, cessation of menses, with fever and soreness in left pubic region. Palpitation of the heart, and sensation of trembling in the epigastric region; faint and sinking sensation in stomach; rolling in abdomen from side to side relieved by belching. At times sensation as of board pressing across the abdomen; heavy dull pain in bladder, urine, brown brick-dust colored sediment; constipation; pain and lameness in left shoulder-blade; melancholia, and disposed to look on the dark side of every thing. Symptoms aggravated by sitting, and worse towards night. Had been under Allopathic treatment for six months. Had been told by three physicians that she could have but little help until



time had effected "a change in life;" and they gave her only anodyne. But a single dose of puls. 200, took old Time by the forelock, and in less than two weeks, she was relieved of all her bad symptoms and able to be out.

I remain, yours, &c.,

TO DR. KIRBY. GEO. F. FOOTE.

*The Milwaukee Homœopathic Medical Reporter. Published in Milwaukee, and Edited by Drs. Douglass and Tracy.*

We have regarded this periodical as a local affair, and intended as much for a medium of advertising the editors as any thing else. The last number, however, looked a little more unselfish, and we trust that improvement in this respect will continue. We hope the monthly statement of the private practice of the editors will be discontinued. This cannot be regarded by the profession in any other light, than direct advertising. Statistical tables of private practice never had any weight, and never should have any, upon the profession. It is, however, but just, that we should say, that able articles have appeared in the Milwaukee Homœopathic Medical Reporter, as the production of the Editors; and if those monthly statistical tables were omitted, that periodical would perhaps be unexceptionable. The Editors must be aware that we can have no other than the kindest feelings for them. The object we wish to accomplish is, that their talents should be exerted in a right direction, to spread a knowledge of Homœopathy in an unexceptionable manner through the columns of their Journal.

*The North-western Journal of Homœopathia.*

*Edited by George E. Shipman, M. D.*

The first number of the above named periodical has been received by us. It will be published monthly, in Chicago, Illinois, at one dollar a year. The editor is a zealous advocate of Homœopathy; and his labors will doubtless be useful, in helping forward a real reform in the healing art.

We hope Dr. S. will be sustained in his laudable enterprise, by the physicians of the homœopathic school. He has our best wishes for success.

*South-western Homœopathic Journal and Review.*

This Journal is published monthly in St. Louis, and edited by John T. Temple, M. D.

It has entered upon the second volume. It is well conducted, and is an efficient auxilliary in promoting the progress of Homœopathy. Only a few numbers of the first volume have been received at this office. Will the Publisher have the goodness to send us all of that volume?

## HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

*College Building located in the rear of  
229 Arch street, Philadelphia.*

Preliminary Instructions will commence on Monday the sixteenth day of October. The regular course will begin on Monday, the sixth day of November, and continue until the first of March ensuing.

Jacob Jeanes, M. D., Professor of the Principles and practice of Medicine.

Caleb B. Matthews, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.

Walter Williamson, M. D., Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.

Francis Sims, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

Samuel Freedley, M. D., Professor of Botany.

Matthew Semple, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.

William A. Gardiner, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

The Chairs of Physiology and Pathology remain to be filled.

Clinical instruction in Medicine and Surgery will be given at the College.

Lectures will be delivered throughout the year, but the winter course only will be obligatory—attendance on the summer course being at the option of the student.

Standard works on Homœopathy and such books as are generally used in other Medical Schools can be used as text books.

Students who have attended a full course of Lectures in another Medical School, can, after attending the winter course of this college, graduate next Spring, if their attainments justify it.

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Fee for a full course | \$100.00 |
| Practical Anatomy     | 10 00    |
| Graduation Fee        | 30.00    |

W. WILLIAMSON, M. D.,

*Dean of the Faculty.*

No. 80, North Eleventh-st., Philadelphia.

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the 'AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY,' may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

### NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY

At 57 Bond Street. Open daily—Sunday's excepted—at 12 o'clock, M. Also, on Saturdays, at 12 o'clock, M., for the treatment of Surgical Cases.

#### *Physicians in Attendance.*

Monday—Drs. Kirby & Barlow.

Tuesday—Drs. Quin & Taylor.

Wednesday—Drs. Snow & Bowers.

Thursday—Drs. Wright & Bolles.

Friday—Drs. Hawks & Allen.

Saturday—Drs. Joslin, Bayard, McViekar and Cator.

### SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

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Chicago, Ill.

B. H. BARTLETT Agt. respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.



# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. 3.

New York, December, 1848.

NO. 8.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued on the first of each month at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to 762 Broadway.

Subscribers may remit to the Editor, by mail, the amount of their subscription.

Subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editor, 762 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1848.

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## CERTAIN DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL POINTED OUT.

Physicians of the Homœopathic School, especially in this country, have responsibilities which should urge them to exertion in the propagation of those truths in the healing art, which they profess to believe, and which must ultimately effect a reform in medicine. Although we have no doubts of the final triumph of Homœopathy, over all other systems of medicine, yet it is possible, and even probable, that the lives of thousands will be sacrificed, and the health of many more be injured, by a want of suitable zeal on the part of homœopathic Physicians, to make known to the people the superiority of their system. We include only those who are truly imbued with the spirit of the science of our art, and who are bold enough to show their "faith by their works." It is, we may truly say, our only object in the publication of the "American

Journal of Homœopathy," to make known more generally, those principles in the science of medicine which had been fully established, and which had accomplished such wonders in the cure of diseases. We did expect a hearty co-operation from all the friends of Homœopathy, and to some extent we have not been disappointed. We did not, nor do we now, ask any favors from those who assume the name of homœopathy, but who never understood its principles and doctrine, and who were never able to practice the art. This class of practitioners are to our mind the most inconsistent of men. They profess faith in *similia similibus curantur*, but give the lie to their profession by allopathic practice. This class of practitioners are more numerous than we were at one time willing to allow. We cannot find it in our heart to blame those allopathic journals who speak of the dishonesty of certain pretended homœopaths; who, they assert, pretend to one thing and do another. We would, however, inform those journals, that they are really condemning their own men; they are not of us, never were of us, and we risk nothing in the assertion, they never will be of us.

The real friends of Homœopathy have much to do. We have often expressed the opinion, through the columns of this journal, that the people must be informed on the subject of medicine; not for the purpose of making them physicians, which we could not do if we would, but to enable them to select, in cases of need, a real physician. We have no reason to change that opinion. On the intelligence of the people in regard to medical doctrines, depends a real, thorough, and a necessary reform in the art of medicine. This matter is of vast importance, it is one in which the entire public is most deeply concerned, and its interest therein should be made manifest. The course which ought to be pursued

by every genuine friend of pure homœopathy is, in our humble opinion, plain enough. There should be no, not even a seeming, yielding of our principles under any circumstances. Enough is now known to enable intelligent minds to become fully convinced, that pure homœopathic practice is adapted to every conceivable derangement of the human body; that it has accomplished more in the removal of human sufferings, where it has been employed with integrity, than any other system of medicine yet known. And further, that so far as its principles are concerned, there cannot in their nature be any change. Therefore, the science of homœopathy is complete; the only improvement we look for is in the art.

In the treatment of what disease can allopathy claim superiority? Has not homœopathy been tested in all diseases? And has she disappointed reasonable expectations? Has she not, on the contrary, in most instances far exceeded the most sanguine anticipations? What can allopathy do in chronic diseases? In view of cures—nothing. Thousands would testify, of their own personal experience, that in chronic diseases, allopathy not only fails to cure, but makes such cases worse. Is it not true that homœopathy shines out in her beauty and excellence when she is rightly employed in this class of diseases; which, every one knows, do not “get well of themselves.” How numerous are the cases of from two to twenty years standing that have been permanently cured by Homœopathy. With these facts standing out—these monuments erected by homœopathy herself, unaided by anything else, which may be seen all over Europe and America—can any friend of humanity refuse to aid in the propagation of a system so clearly designed to relieve human sufferings?

But what is to be done more than is now doing? We answer, give circulation to the Homœopathic Journals. Several are now published in different parts of the country, and at a low price. If the American Journal of Homœopathy advocates the true doctrine and practice, it should have at least 10,000 subscribers. Let it go among the people, they will read it, they will consider its contents, and be led to make trials of our art, and thereby their own experience will confirm them in the truth of homœopathy.

We have been surprised and disappointed that physicians of our school did not see that their interest would be greatly promoted by

ordering a number of copies for gratuitous distribution. There are those who have done so, and we know that these have been amply remunerated for the expenditure of five and ten dollars a year. If we may be permitted to boast a little, we don't believe that any publication can be found, so well calculated to awake attention to homœopathy as this journal. Three years ago a physician subscribed for eight copies, and directed them to be mailed to individuals of his town; since which, each one promptly pays his own subscription, and some dozen more have been added; and the practice of that physician is now one of the largest in this country.

If the medical profession desires the downfall of quackery, let it remove from the minds of the people the idea of mystery in the treatment of diseases. Let it no longer imagine its dignity would be diminished by opening the door to true medical science, and invite all to look in and examine, and by their own personal inspection be convinced that the healing art is founded upon immutable principles, which are safe and certain, and that it is not left at loose ends, to mere guess work. We have no fears of any injury medicine will receive from an investigation of it by the people. For, in this country, there are no “ignorant masses,” and such is the nature of our habits of free communication with one another, and the tendency of our institutions to promote personal sociality, that knowledge must spread. Mind communes with mind too freely in this government to allow the possibility of the continuance of important errors in medicine or in any thing else. The lawyer, the clergyman, the statesman, the philosopher, labor to make the people comprehend the doctrines they advocate; but the physician, until now, has regarded it derogatory to his character to explain his doctrine and practice to the people. The ground taken has been, that the patient must have faith in his physician, although he does not know whether he be a wise man, or a fool. The time has come for such hazardous confidence to cease. To Hahnemann belongs the credit of the first movement to accomplish so desirable and necessary a reform. There are, strictly speaking, but two medical schools, the allopathic and the Homœopathic; and the people are about to demand of these the reasons for their faith and practice. Let the homœopathic school boldly, honestly, fully and clearly, answer the demand of the people



in this respect. Write, publish, circulate, lecture, converse of Homœopathy, but above all, "heal the sick."

### THE CHOLERA.

In 1832, when the cholera prevailed in this country, all sorts of theories were put forth to illustrate, if possible, the cause of that malady; and various modes of treatment were recommended with confidence, all of which tended to spread alarm among the people, without effecting much good. As information reaches us of the progress of that dreadful disease in Europe, the press teems with advice from editors, and advertisements of remedies. So numerous are the prescriptions for cholera already urged upon the attention of the people, that many are in a state of mental "confusion worse confounded." If this disease comes among us, and it is far from being certain that it will, we do not see why it should cause any more, if as much alarm, as the typhus fever, which has prevailed in this city, and in other places in our country, during the last two years.

The cholera is strongly marked and clearly defined. Its character is as well, if not better understood by the medical profession, than many other diseases; which, by their fatality, make up the largest part of the weekly bills of mortality.

The cause of this malady is unknown, and it is probable that little or no benefit would accrue if it could be established. All attempts to ascertain the essence of this disease have been vain; it can never be known; and if it were, it could be of no practical utility. That deceptive modern word, *pathology*, has induced some to term the cholera a congestive fever; others have thought it to be a degeneration of the blood, &c., &c.; the object being to fix a theory of the disease, and thereby infer a theory of cure; which cannot be done. This is the foundation of all, or nearly so, the pernicious modes of treatment, not only for cholera, but for other diseases.

"With the single exception of the empirics, the method of cure in every school was made to depend on the *theory of disease*, not on the discovered properties of medicine, apart from such theory. It is the characteristic of homœopathy, that it is not a theory of disease at all, but a *theory of cure*, and that it may be applied to practice, whatever theory of disease

may happen to be adopted. A therapeutical theory founded on a pathological hypothesis, (however correct it might be,) would require that medicines be selected according to their agreement with that hypothesis. Thus, if fever be ascribed to a spasm of the extreme vessels, and if this doctrine be regarded as our guide in practice, we must select a medicine in virtue of its property of counteracting such spasm, which is to introduce another theory, viz, all results of the medicine are to be discarded, excepting so far as they may be considered anti-spasmodic. In this view, no theory of disease can constitute a definite foundation for practice."

To treat any disease by its name is downright quackery. To recommend any one drug, or a combination of drugs in one prescription, as a remedy for cholera, is also quackery. To express upon paper the details of the treatment of cases of that malady is out of the question—the thing cannot be done, so as to be useful to the profession or any one else. We, ourself, have seen hundreds of cases of cholera, but never saw two cases precisely alike; often, it is true, there was a similarity; often, also, a great dissimilarity. The following variety of medicines have been indicated in this disease, and been found successful, which fact proves that the cases were dissimilar, for no one remedy has been discovered which is appropriate to all cases:

Veratrum album, cuprum metallicum, ipecacuanha, mercurius, phosphorus, camphor, chamomilla, arsenicum, secale cornutum, acidum hydrocyanicum, acidum phosphoricum, carbo-vegetabilis, cicuta virosa, and nuxvomica. And in the affections subsequently to the cholera: Aconitum napellus, belladonna, byronia alba, rhus toxicodendron, sulphur, cantharides, and cinchona.

These medicines will be found indicated in the varied conditions of cases, and their proper use will require skill in the practitioner. There should be no hap-hazard prescribing of them; there must be exactness, so that the drug corresponds to the condition of the sick at the time it is administered. Unless it is so, no curative effect will take place. There should be no mixing of these medicines; each must be employed by itself; and if more than one be demanded by a case, the judgment of a competent physician must guide in the selection, he being governed by the established principles of his art. The educated physician, with the above remedies properly pre-

pared, as they are by Mr. Smith, 488 Broadway, can cure the cholera promptly.

The intemperate and the free livers, whether in high or low life, have reason to be alarmed at the approach of this formidable malady. Generally such cannot be saved by any treatment. But, those persons of ordinary health, of temperate habits, moral and physical, who eat to live, and not live to eat, have little cause of alarm, for the means of a certain and prompt cure, in such persons, are at hand.

The question will arise in the minds of the alarmed thousands: what shall we do? Which mode of treatment shall we adopt? The answer to this is; there are but two modes in the art of medicine, known by the terms Allopathy and Homœopathy. The former can be, and is, modified into a hundred or more shapes, and presents itself under various disguises or names, such as: Thompsonianism, Chrono-Thermalism, Eclecticism, Analytical, Botanical, "The Reform Practice," &c. &c. The latter cannot be modified; it is made up of clearly defined and immutable laws, any deviation from which in practice, would render it ineffectual to cure. Homœopathia is the same every where, and its principles are fixed—they cannot be changed. For half a century thousands have relied upon them, and invariably with renewed confidence. There is not, nor cannot be, two kinds of Homœopathy; such a thought is absurd, and whoever utters it betrays ignorance of the subject. The question must be determined by a choice of one or the other of these two systems of medicine; bearing in mind this fact, that the one is without principles, and the other has principles. This is true, or allopathy could not assume so many shapes as it does. If it had principles they could not be changed, and it would be one and the same everywhere; but it is notorious, that scarcely two practitioners of allopathy agree in the practice. If the decision is in favor of homœopathy, then be careful to secure the services of a genuine practitioner of that system; for the public ought to know, that there is much of allopathy practiced in the name of homœopathy.

Probably this system has not had, nor cannot have, a stronger opposition to its full development to the people, than is found in those pretended practitioners of it, who mix it with the different forms of allopathy. We again assert, that the practice of homœopathy requires precision; there must be no devia-

tion from its laws; for if there be, the hopes of the sick may be disappointed, as many have been, who now condemn that which they never tried—they were deceived.

If you decide in favor of allopathy, you need no instruction from us who to employ.

Finally, the cholera, like all other diseases, requires the mature judgment of the physician in its management; and no one can safely dispense with such service. Every sensible mind, cannot but perceive the propriety of this suggestion; there should be no confidence whatever placed in newspaper advertisements, or in lay practitioners. In 1832 we knew a few conceited men, who neglected their legitimate business, and, for the time, turned doctors; and, with some pretended specific, announced themselves armed and competent to meet this dire foe of human life. Many were silly enough to seek such aid in their passage from time to eternity.

Another evil should be strictly guarded against. The frequent use of camphor in large and repeated doses. Where there is a predisposition to cholera, and some of its milder symptoms present, spirits of camphor, in doses of twenty drops to a teaspoonful, often repeated, will in most cases develope the disease in a violent and fatal form. In 1832 we do not think we mistook in our observations that camphor, improperly employed, was the cause of many deaths. There is probably no remedy more efficient in the first hour or two of a cholera diarrhœa and vomiting, when properly applied.

When an epidemic cholera prevails, druggists, whose business it is to sell medicines, step aside from their duty, and prescribe for hundreds who apply to them, laboring under cholera symptoms, or imagine themselves to be so. Much sacrifice of human life comes of the prescriptions of druggists, under such circumstances. We remember particularly to have remarked this in two of the temporary cholera hospitals in this city in 1832. In one of them, scarcely a patient was admitted who had not previously been drugged by an apothecary; and the mortality in that hospital was dreadful, as the printed reports will show. And if any thing, more than another, should destroy all confidence in allopathy and allopathic physicians, the reports of the cholera hospitals of this city, in 1832, should do it. They were published under the direction of a "special medical council" of prominent allopaths, appointed by the common council.



We challenge the entire allopathic school to point out any real therapeutic principle which guided the practitioner in any one of the many means which were employed in the treatment of the cases of cholera embraced in those reports.

"On the invasion of a new disease, as the cholera, the dogmatist and the empiric would be alike at fault; the former, to be consistent, must defer his treatment till he has formed a satisfactory theory of the pathological character of the disease; the latter refers to his experience, and finds it a blank; while the homœopathist, whose guide is in the very features of the disease itself, as cognizable by him, is competent to meet it at once, without the delay of forming an hypothesis. He feels that a definite foundation has been laid for the treatment of this disease as well as the more familiar, and therefore he may undertake it at once without any conscious shifting of his ground."

#### REMARKABLE ARGUMENTS AGAINST HOMŒOPATHY.

It is amusing to read the attacks on Homœopathy by allopathic journals. In every instance there is manifested a remarkable ignorance of the subject. The London Medical Gazette has the following, which has been copied by some of our American journals as a gem in medical literature:

*The real character of Homœopathy.*—Homœopathy is in our judgment skepticism. Without doubt, this skepticism, which makes of medicine a science of divination, of Pagan augury, ought to be stigmatized as jugglery, unworthy at once of those who employ it, and those who are imposed on by it. Is it not treason to the dignity of man, an insult to the nobleness of his nature, to treat him like a child, and to employ a lying science industriously elaborated, like a coral to lull him asleep in suffering and death? Pagan societies might well have such sciences, and revere them, but such a cheat is not allowable in the present day.

Such flights of fancy may refresh some we wot of; but intelligent readers will not be particularly moved by such glowing eloquence.

The following is travelling the rounds of the journals as evidence of the falseness of Homœopathy. It is mightily convincing, and we should not wonder if many an allopath will, after reading it, be fully persuaded of the humbugery of Homœopathy.

*A New Competitor with Homœopathy. Isopathy.*—A new German humbug has lately appeared upon the tapis, which bids fair to make a strong appeal to the affections of those who are ever greedy for medical delusions. The following account of the would be rival of Homœopathy, is taken from the London Medical Gazette:—*Buffalo Medical Jour.*

"A new medical doctrine has appeared on the horizon, and it is Germany again, *Alma parens rerum*, which enriches the world with this benefit. Homœopathy, magnetism, and phrenology, salute their new sister under the harmonious name of Isopathy. Dr. Hermann is the prophet of this doctrine, which is grounded on the following principle: Every diseased organ has its remedy in the same organ—thus if you have disease of liver, eat liver; if a headache, eat brain; if you suffer in the bladder or kidneys, nourish yourself on bladder and kidneys; if the testicles be disordered, eat testicles. As the organs may not appear very tempting to certain squeamish persons, M. Hermann has made tinctures of them, which his patients take in spoonfuls, under the scientific names of *Stomachine*, *Cystine*, *Testiculina*, *Umbria*, &c. The work published at Augsburg, contains fifty cases of radical cures. Go! young doctrine, increase and prosper—thou wilt doubtless be called to high destinies!"

The following has been a standing dish for several months, and our allopathic brethren have actually surfeited themselves of it. It is truly rich, and is made of the right material to suit their appetites. The main ingredient is, that Dr. Fleischmann intentionally deceived the public:

*Homœopathic Veracity.*—Our readers probably remember how pompously the wonderful statistical reports of the homœopathic hospital of Gumpendorf, at Vienna, were announced. It now turns out, from the examination of the books of the establishment by M. Balfour, that these statements were mere forgeries. Dr. Fleischmann had stated that, during the year 1846, sixty-four patients suffering from pneumonia were admitted, of whom two only died, or three per cent.; whereas, it has been found in the books that, in the space of three months, three pneumonic patients died out of nineteen—viz: fifteen per cent. It was also stated, that all the patients with ague were cured excepting two, who died, whilst the books gave within the above mentioned quarter the name of a patient who left the hospital in a worse state of health than when he entered it: finally, two cases of pleuritic effusion and general anasarca were reported as cured, whereas the individuals left the house in exactly the same state as when they were admitted.

This dish was prepared, so far as we can trace its history, by the London Medical Gazette. We have carefully read George W. Balfour, M. D.'s letters to Dr. Forbes, from which the above is a pretended statement. It



is remarkable that in every instance, so far as we know, where attacks have been made on Homœopathy, they are invariably accompanied by unfairness, to use a mild term. Now, what are the facts in relation to this Dr. Balfour. In the first place he was employed by Dr. Forbes to visit the Vienna Hospital and communicate to him what he saw and heard; the object was, to get at something, if possible, to disprove Dr. Fleischmann's reports, which had so astonished Dr. Forbes.

Dr. Balfour acknowledges his strong prejudice and opposition to Homœopathy, which is not only directly stated by himself, but his letters show that his favorable remarks were forced from him by the strongest evidence.

There is nothing in these letters which even hints at "forgeries" by Dr. Fleischmann, and nowhere does Dr. B. state that he examined or even saw the books. His reports of cases were made by himself, as we understand him, and we have no more reason to believe this spy for Dr. Forbes, than we have to doubt Dr. Fleischmann's statistics. For Dr. B. can only be regarded in the light of a spy, and as such, was engaged in a business rather questionable, in view of professional honor.

Dr. B. makes some statements which we do not doubt are true, for otherwise he would not have been likely to have said anything in favor of Homœopathy; his purpose having been to do it harm if possible. He says: "No young physician settling in Austria, excluding government officers, can hope to make his bread, unless at least prepared to treat homœopathically if requested; and many, after attempting to do so, return to Vienna to make themselves acquainted with the new method." This does not agree very well with the assertions of London and American allopathic journals, that Homœopathy is going down in Europe.

Dr. Balfour also states that "Dr. Fleischman commenced those duties, (in the Vienna Hospital, in 1835,) which he still continues to discharge, and whose name, in connection with Homœopathy and this hospital, is now known over both the old and the new worlds, and from whom the practice of Homœopathy has received a greater impetus than from any other since the days of Hahnemann. During the first appearance of cholera here, the practice of Homœopathy was first introduced: and cholera, when it came again, renewed the favorable impulse previously given—as it was through Dr. Fleischmann's successful treat-

ment of this disease that the restrictive laws were removed, and homœopaths obtained leave to practice and dispense medicines in Austria. Since that time their number has increased more than three-fold, in Vienna and its provinces." These facts we regard of some importance, but the allopathic journals have been most careful not to notice them.

The most prominent point in Dr. B.'s letters is, his attempt to show that already homœopaths are divided into cliques; and he very particularly remarks that there are very few Hahnemannians. This may be so, but it does not prove Homœopathy false. If the truth of a system of medicine depends upon the number who embrace it, then Dr. B.'s remarks, to which we refer, would be in point; but generally the reverse is the fact.

It would be singular indeed if the practice of Hahnemann were popular at this period of its history. It requires so much labor, such exactness, such individualizing of cases, so complete a renunciation of old theories, such a habit of close observation, such acuteness of reasoning, in a word, such skill, which can only be acquired by patient study and careful observation, that it is wonderful that any should be found among the present race of physicians to adhere to his practice. But that Homœopathy which only embraces "*similia similibus curantur*," is not of much account; for, unless the preparation of the medicines, the doses and their repetitions are regarded, failures to cure would be numerous; and not only so, but much harm be caused by such imperfect practice. If the cases reported by Dr. Balfour can be relied upon, they go to show that he saw but little, if any homœopathic practice after all; and we are not surprised that he should attribute many of the recoveries to nature's efforts, for she generally takes a long time to accomplish her work in the cure of diseases, and often she does it imperfectly, which we think is apparent in some of his cases. For example, a case of typhus fever was treated with ipecac., 3d dilution, four times daily, from April 27th to July 26th, with the exception of a single dose of senega, 2d dilution. And treating all cases of pneumonia with Phosphorus, repeated every few hours, and that for weeks, is a sort of practice which cannot be sanctioned by the principles of the homœopathic system of therapeutics; and no wonder that "this uniformity is a cause of complaint from his (Dr. Fleischmann) fellow practitioners, who say that 'by seeing



him practice you merely get a glimpse of what Homœopathy can do.'” We are decidedly of this opinion. The cases reported by Dr. Balfour are anything but what would be satisfactory to us in our own practice. Hahnemannian homœopathy would show a very different result in these conditions.

Of the success of the practice of pure Homœopathy in typhus fevers, we can speak with confidence, from our own experience in that disease for the last few years. And hundreds of American physicians of our school could bear a like testimony. The fact, if it be a fact, that in Europe the practice of pure Homœopathy is not general among those who act in the name of homœopathy, does not amount to much; and should not be seized upon by our opponents and hurled at genuine homœopathy, for it is no argument against it. Whoever does not practice homœopathy, practices allopathy, which shows that the divisions are not among homœopathists but allopathists. We, ourself, could point to those who boast of years of experience in homœopathic practice; but, of our knowledge, they have no experience of any account, for they have uniformly been a sort of mongrels, mixing the nosology, the pathology, the diagnosis, and the therapeutics of the allopathic school with homœopathy; and no such combination can take place chemically, vitally, or physically, for such practice resolves itself into eclecticism, and being such, it is a wonder that Dr. Forbes should not have known his own offspring. He did, as also did Dr. Balfour, recognize some of its features, which they acknowledge; but especially was “young physic” seen by them, performing the principle work among the sick, in both Dr. Fleischmann’s and Dr. Skoda’s hospitals; and we are not sure but their perception in this respect, to some extent, was correct. At any rate, we can see but a faint shadow of Homœopathy in the Vienna Hospital; and if it continues to exert the influence ascribed to it, we should not be surprised if pure homœopathic practice, in Europe, would diminish. We do not doubt, that American physicians will be entitled to the high honor of firmly adhering to those truths taught by Hahnemann; and European physicians will yet look to those of this country for the true art in medicine, which they so thoughtlessly let slip, by the influence of the “leaven” of Allopathy.

## THE CASE OF J. S. HEWIT, M. D., OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

The readers of this Journal may recollect, that in No. 5 of the present volume, the proceedings of the “Milwaukee City Medical Association” were noticed, in the case of Dr. J. S. Hewit, of that city. We have since learned that other movements have been made in reference to that gentleman, by that allopathic association, which are so very peculiar that we think our readers may be gratified with their perusal. The following letter was addressed to Dr. H.:

MILWAUKEE, June 30, 1848.

DR. J. S. HEWIT,

*Dear Sir* :—At a meeting of the Milwaukee City Medical Association, held at the office of Dousman & Wolcott, on the 29th day of June, 1848, the following charge was preferred against you by Dr. H. Van Dusen—to wit:

‘To the Secretary of the Milwaukee City Medical Association,

I charge Dr. J. S. Hewit with violating resolution first or’ (meaning of) ‘rules of Etiquette and Fee Bill of this association, in consulting with a Dr. Douglas, (Homœopath,) a resident of this City, but not a member of the Association, sometime between the middle of May last past, and the middle of the present month, at the house of a Capt. Lawrence, and upon his child then sick and under the treatment of the said Dr. Douglas,

[Signed,] H. VAN DUSEN.

*Milwaukee, June 29th, 1848.*’

It is presumed that Dr. Hewit is already acquainted with the rules prescribed for a case of this character.

Yours very Truly and Respectfully,  
J. G. WOLCOTT,  
Cor. Sec., City Ass.”

Dr. Hewit answered the summons by attending the next meeting and making his defence. He expressed his surprise that he should be a second time arraigned for the same alleged offence upon a trial for which he had been pronounced *not* guilty by a perfectly unanimous vote of the Association. That this was contrary to all law, constitution and precedent, putting a man a second time in jeopardy for the same offence. He had done nothing since his last trial, but just what the Association, by a unanimous vote, justified him in doing—nothing which he dreamed of constituting an offence, even in their own view. If he had done anything wrong, he had been led into it by their own act of justification. They had, themselves, seduced him into a trap. After discussion, a resolution was passed declaring that “the charge of un-

professional conduct against Dr. Hewit, was not sustained."

At the next meeting, without any notice served upon Dr. H., the following most remarkable preamble and resolution were presented by Dr. Van Dusen. We give it *verbatim et literatim*. We have scrupulously avoided supplying a pause, or *expunging* a capital, lest we should be charged with an unwarrantable interference with "the collateral sciences," which the Association have taken under their special keeping. The author will be under great obligations to us, for giving it to the public. Wherever this shall go with his name attached, *there* he will be under no necessity of again getting up and publishing in the papers, the endorsement, by a medical society, either of his literary or professional standing. The Association will equally share the honor of paternity by adoption. But we will not keep this precious document longer from our readers.

"Whereas

The object of this Association shall be to protect the interests and promote the advancement of the medical and Collateral Sciences, thereby check, in some degree, the 'Spread of quackery among us and' and

Whereas

In the opinion of this Ass. Homœopathy Whether Viewed in Theory or practice in its six or six thousandth dilution in its similia similibus curantur or the "howling mania" from a dose of Ipecac is but another evidence of the Susceptibility of a portion of Mankind" to be pleased with a rattle and tickled with a Straw" embracing the shadow at the expense of truth and substance Entertaining and being Entertained with the gilded glitter of Mere Moonshine While conscience honor & dignity are all sacrificed at the shrine of fraud & mammon and

Whereas) Dr. J. S. Hewit by becoming an advocate retailer & counsellor among the *initiated one idea* impostors of this City has forfeited the confidence as a physician of this Association & deserves to be expelled Therefore Resolved

that he be expelled  
Milwaukee 27th July 1848  
H. VAN DUSEN."

We now understand why that allopathic "American Medical Association" were so urgent to raise the standard of medical education, and also, why medical students should be better qualified by preliminary studies. If the above preamble and resolution are to be regarded as evidence of the state of education in the allopathic school, we agree with the "American Medical Association," that [it is high time that something was done to elevate

the standard of education in that school. The public will learn, after a while, that ignorance and hypocrisy do not alone live in our school, but that our allopathic brethren have their full share of these embellishments to protect them from injury in their "*professional dignity*."

This is an age for freedom of thought and of action; and whoever attempts to bind the one or the other, will be marked an ignoramus. The most remarkable body of men of the present day are the physicians of the Allopathic school. They will neither think, or let think—they will neither act or permit others to act. They live, move, and have their being, as physicians, in one idea, "*professional dignity*," which manifests itself in this: no one must question "our science, our art, our veracity, or our skill." If any one offends in these things, he is at once denounced for attacking their "*dignity*," a fool or knave. The allopathic school, as such, is behind the age in knowledge; and all her efforts in the direction she is now working can only result in worse and worse. The associations which exist in her bosom are marked by a spirit of intolerance, inconsistent with the age in which we live; and instead of perceiving this deformity of their body—this organic lesion—their loss of strength and of weight: like a consumptive patient, they say, "we are growing better, we only want something to give a little more strength. We want a few more professors in our colleges, and an extension of the time of study, and health and vigor will be restored to us." All this, like allopathic theories, sounds well, but it is mere sound, which signifies nothing.

That school is doomed to destruction, we see that it is so, plain enough—the process will be slow, but sure. The spirit of intolerance may keep it alive for a time, for it is the only thing on which it can rely; for should its members be permitted to think and act without fear of that spirit of darkness, allopathy would not be known fifty years hence, only in history.

#### CENSORIOUSNESS.

It is not our purpose to meddle with matters that do not concern us, yet occasionally we may go a little out of our direct path, especially when no harm can come of it, either to ourself or to the cause we advocate. The



Annalist, through a correspondent, is belaboring the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, for uttering a favorable opinion of Dr. Bostwick's work on Syphilis. By the way, we have only examined the plates of that work, and it is due to the author to say, that they are, in our judgment, the most perfect of any we ever saw; and if there was nothing else in the work of any worth, the plates alone are worthy of the highest commendation. But why this spirit of bitterness in the Annalist's correspondent towards Dr. B.? He advertises directly, while many of his colleagues do so indirectly. But in this Dr. B. has done no more than was done last year by the entire membership of the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. B. gets practice, and has made money. In this there is a wide difference between him and most of the members of the Academy. We have known Dr. B. for years, and although we could not pursue his course, neither do we regard him a "great man," yet he is indefatigable and persevering; and thereby, he makes moderate talents tell in his professional pursuits; which fact is worthy of imitation. We are in favor of the largest liberty, where there is no infringement of the rights of others. If Dr. B., or any body else, sees fit to advertise, directly or indirectly, individually or in an associated capacity, as did the academy, and if the people think fit to be influenced by such self-laudations, we will not complain of the one or the other.

We know of members of the academy who prowl about hotels and boarding-houses, and intrude themselves upon the notice of strangers, by informing them of their "superior skill" in the treatment of certain diseases, and solicit calls in case of need; and yet these men are esteemed "honorable members of a liberable profession;" and put forth to the community, by that exclusive association, as most respectable and worthy of confidence. We know, also, members of the New York Academy of Medicine, who offer their services gratuitously to the proprietors of hotels and their families, for their influence in securing attendance on any traveller who may be sick. The servants are rewarded by money, and also gratuitous services, for their aid in securing the practice of the hotels. In this way strangers are often imposed upon, being informed that Dr. — is the physician to the house. Large fees are demanded and paid for the most trivial services; and in case of complaint, the landlord and his servants take

care to express their opinion that the charge is reasonable, for New York. If the Annalist's correspondent would examine into the conduct of his own colleagues, who indirectly advertise, he may find more to complain of than he can in any direct advertiser. We think much more favorably of the latter than we do of the former. There are things, too, connected with consultations, which might be useful to investigate, but we forbear.

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### THE MEDICINE DID NOT CURE ME, FOR I DID NOT FEEL ITS EFFECTS.

The title of this article is familiar to those physicians who practice Homœopathy. Almost daily, persons apply for advice and medicine, who, subsequently state, that the sufferings they complained of are removed, but they say, "The medicine did not cure me, for I did not feel its effects." How absurd this is. What do the sick want of medicine, more than to remove their sufferings? If medicines can be so prepared, and so adapted to the condition of the sick, as to insensibly effect a cure, are not such effects characterized with more sound philosophy and skill than when administered in a mode which produces powerful sensible effects, which often force the acknowledgment that "the remedy is worse than the disease?"

Among the numerous errors promulgated by the allopathic school of medicine, none, probably, have been more pernicious than that, which inculcates the necessity of the sensible effects of medicines in the cure of diseases. This doctrine cannot be sustained; and it is remarkable that the profession have not long since, carefully considered this important subject. But it has not. Until Hahnemann, we are not aware the subject had been even mooted. This is singular, for there were phenomena, well known in physiology, and in pathology, which should have led directly to the subject of this article; and after Hahnemann had put forth his system of therapeutics, an honest mind would have supposed that it would have been most carefully investigated in the only legitimate mode—experiment. But owing, as we think, to the prevalence of materialism in the profession, few, very few, comparatively, were found bold enough to examine the subject properly. And at the present period, a denial of the efficiency

of drugs in inappreciable quantities is at the foundation of the opposition to Homœopathia. The medical profession and the people generally are involved in this error, which is in the way of the progress of truth in the healing art, and thereby thousands continue in a suffering state who should be promptly relieved.

But what are the well known facts in physiology, from which we might infer the efficacy of drugs on the human system unperceived by the senses? They are the functions of the organs of the human body, which go on unnoticed by the senses, as the circulation, digestion, secretions, &c.

An inference in favor of the doctrine we advocate may be drawn, also, from the miasms and other causes of diseases. Those infecting substances floating in the air, which produce the most inveterate diseases, act unperceived, and often their effects are manifested in some vital organ, only when it is on the verge of disorganization, and beyond the reach of any means of cure. In cases of consumption, where for years there is a very slight emaciation, and a gradual diminution of strength, and a hacking cough that attract no attention; all which goes on unperceived, until symptoms of disorganization are developed, and death soon follows. These facts, with others of a like nature, go to show that attenuated drugs, which are poisons, may impress the human organism without sensible effects. It is known that drugs are more rapid and potent in their action in the human system than any miasm. If this be true, and there need be no doubt, then the presumption is, that the attenuated medicines, as employed in homœopathic practice, are not only potent, but they are the most suitable to cure diseases, which is fully confirmed by the experience of half a century in thousands of cases.

#### MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

The first number of a journal of the above title, edited by John Ellis, M. D., and S. B. Thayer, M. D., has been received at this office. It is published monthly, at Detroit, Michigan.

This number shows that the editors are genuine disciples of Hahnemann, and do not favor that *no principle* doctrine known by the term *eclectic*. The Michigan Journal

agrees with us, that the people should be enlightened on the subject of medicine. It asks the question, "Why should the community be kept in ignorance on medical subjects?" Can any one give a reason in the negative?

The following is a severe thrust at our allopathic brethren, but they richly deserve it. "Truth tends to make men liberal. The history of medicine, and the present state of medical science, substantiates this position most fully. The greater the ignorance, the greater the mystery. Who, but the quack, desires exclusive knowledge, carries a knowing look, shrouds medical subjects in mystery strenuously withholds from his patients and the public, all knowledge of the composition of his medicines and compounds, encourages the use of patent medicines, strives to obtain penal enactments and laws to protect him in the enjoyment of his ill-gotten popularity?" Drs. Ellis and Thayer manifest the right kind of zeal in the following, viz: "We here freely state what we desire to see accomplished: it is nothing less than an entire overthrow of the present system of bleeding, blistering, vomiting, physic, salivating, &c., and the substitution of Homœopathy, a system as beautiful and harmless as it is scientific and efficacious; and we shall never be satisfied until the old practice, in all its forms, is entirely overthrown, and the new universally substituted. In regard to the feasibility of this change, we have only to say, we have faithfully tried both methods for years, and consider ourselves better qualified to judge than physicians who have seen but one side of the question, and are confined to one idea."

The following is well expressed:"

The discovery by Hahnemann of one universal therapeutic law, the law of similars in the treatment of disease, is destined in a brief period to sweep away the crude notions of the old school; a system that, instead of appealing to truths from which she cannot be dislodged, prides herself upon her antiquity, and offers no other evidence of her correctness in practice, (except what is homœopathic) but the bare fact that she is three thousand years old. All feel that the system is most valuable, which will restore health in the quickest, safest, and most pleasant manner. Indeed, no system possesses value, only so far as it approximates this end.

Homœopathy, the new intruder into the medical world, claims to have discovered the law by which this grand desideratum may, and will, in the progress of events, be attained. She seeks no concealment of her discoveries, but invites investigation, for truth has nothing to fear, but everything to gain by exposure,



whilst error, always fearful, seeks to cast its own dark shadow over every thing around it, lest the light should expose her deformity.

In casting the eye back over the page of medical history, for the past few hundred years, we find the record of theories almost without number, each in its turn, and having for a brief period enjoyed the sunshine of public favor, only to be frowned away, that another more favored, but equally ephemeral, might occupy its place. Amid this alteration and confusion, stands recorded the strange and unaccountable fact, that every important discovery in medical science, that has urged, by the force of truth, an acknowledgment and final adoption by the profession, has found its most bitter and unrelenting opponents in the bosom of that very profession. Witness the cruel and unjust persecution of the good and enlightened Harvey, by the dominant medical school of sixteen hundred and twenty-eight. Why? because he dared obtrude upon the notice of that time-honored and dignified school, what contravened their preconceived ideas of the circulation of the blood. In council assembled, the medical savans of the old world decreed, that no student should receive the degree of doctor of medicine, who did not repudiate Harvey's theory of the circulation of the blood.

To-day the school-boy is familiar with important truths, pronounced a few years since by the censorious and opinionated to be contemptible vagaries not worthy an examination.

When Jenner proclaimed to the medical world the important fact, that that worst of all human maladies, the small pox, could be prevented by anticipating it with another, the vaccine disease, (in accordance with the law of similars,) the discoverer was stigmatized as a "visionary," and the people warned against the adoption of his theory.

And last, not least, the sublime and practical truths of Homœopathy have, in this day, met from the dominant school a like reception; but based upon truth, she is forcing a reluctant acknowledgment from those who have been most violent in their opposition, and is destined very soon to be adopted by all. The entire want of unity in feeling and action in the old school, is positive proof that it is not based upon certainty in principle. Every one knows that members of the profession are constantly engaged in conflicts of opinion amongst themselves, no two taking the same view of any given case, but frequently prescribing in direct opposition to each other, thus losing sight of principle, the real object of inquiry, become forgetful of the high trust reposed in the profession, and in attempting to throw around themselves the semblance of dignity, false in itself, school themselves into the vain belief, that there is no clear water beyond the bounds of their own muddy lake.

#### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The anniversary meeting was held on the evening of the 8th ult. Dr. Manly was the

Orator. The attendance, we were informed, was small. How have the mighty fallen!!! One year ago, the Tabernacle, which will hold 4000 persons, could not contain the multitude who flocked there to attend the first public meeting of that exclusive association. It was an unwise movement of certain men who organized this pretended academy with its avowed objects; we told them so at the time, but they would not heed our advice, and they are now reaping the reward of their temerity. The only notice we have seen of the meeting of the 8th ult., is in the Dispatch, as follows, viz: "The anniversary of this potent, grave, and reverend, not to say learned body, was celebrated on Wednesday last, in the church in Eighth street, by an Address by Dr. Manly. This address was a regular scorcher. It is pretty evident that Dr. Manly has read this paper for some time past, and profited thereby; for a more caustic, biting, sarcastic exposure of the ignorance, conceit and bigotry of the profession, and especially of the Academy, it was never our good fortune to hear. The congregated M. D.'s sat and winced and writhed under the castigation, and would have stopped it if they had dared, but that couldn't be done. The recipe was put up *secundum artem*, and with many wry faces they had to swallow it.

'Well, what kind of a prescription do you call that?' we asked of a good-natured Academician, as we were coming out.

'*Acidum Aceticum fortissime* upon the *cutis vera*, after the successful application of an *Episplastic*,' said he, shrugging his shoulders.

We translate for the benefit of those who have forgotten their Latin:—A rousing blister, washed with the strongest kind of vinegar."

#### UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK; MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

There are nearly five hundred students in attendance in this institution, which is the largest class it has had. This large number reminds us of the days of Hosack, Post, Mitchell, Godman and Bushe.

There is a liberality of views and feelings in the professors of this college, which secures such unprecedented success, and which is worthy of imitation.

## PROPHYLACTIC TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

"*Cuprum* and *Veratrum* have been recommended as prophylactics of cholera. In a district where cholera is raging, we would recommend that half a dozen globules be taken, of the 3d dilution of one of these medicines, every third morning, dissolved in a teaspoonful of water. The medicines to be alternated. Dr. Marenzeller states, that he gave these medicines to 150,000 persons in Vienna, and none of them fell victims to Cholera. The same results were gained among 80,000 people in Hungary and Poland. It is the general experience of homœopaths, that among those who took their medicines, and were attacked by cholera, the disease showed itself in its mildest form; whereas, at the same time, it attacked with great virulence those who had not undergone this prophylactic treatment. These statements are highly worthy of being tested."

*British Jour. Hom.*

*Remarks.*—We have no experience to correspond with the above, yet, should the cholera prevail in this city, we would ourselves, take those medicines, and prescribe them to others, with the expectation of favorable results. The prophylactic effects of *vaccine virus* against the small-pox, and belladonna against scarlet fever, are well known. It appears that those who are attacked with cholera, after having taken *cuprum* and *veratrum*, have the disease in a mild form; so also in those who have the small-pox and scarlet fever, if under the influence of their prophylactics. Whoever tests this preventive treatment of the cholera should be certain of the purity of the medicines. The preparation mentioned of *cuprum* cannot be had of druggists, and we would not use the *veratrum* found in the shops. We here take occasion to say, that the medicines used in homœopathic practice must be most carefully prepared. There is reason for the opinion that the reported failures in that practice is often owing to the impurity of the medicines, or to the imperfect mode in their preparation, or to both.

What has the New York Academy of Medicine accomplished for the science and art of medicine? Nothing. What progress has it made in putting down Homœopathy? On this point we are not informed. Perhaps we shall know when Dr. Manly's address is published.

If the cholera should prevail in this country, have the allopathic school a plan of treatment which promises better success than in 1832? We doubt if it has. We have read everything within our reach that has appeared on that subject, from that school, for the last year, but have not been able to detect any mode of treatment that is new, or that is *rational*. Whoever submits to Allopathy in that disease had better first make his *will*.

## "HOW DARE YOU TRUST HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT."

The above is a question so frequently asked patients and their friends, by those unacquainted with Homœopathy, and doubtless often asked in good faith, and with a real solicitude for the patient's welfare, especially if the patient is much sick; that it is often exceedingly annoying to the patients and their friends, and is worthy of a candid consideration and frank answer.

The patient trusts a method of treatment because he has confidence in it. As those who make the above inquiries are ready to trust allopathic treatment, and as the physician is the proper representative of his method or practice, it becomes necessary that we compare the qualifications of the allopathic and homœopathic physicians in point of knowledge, and we shall lay it down as a self evident position, that all other things being equal, a physician's skill depends upon his knowledge and science.

The allopathic physician has devoted at least three years to the study of medicine under a practicing physician, and has attended not less than two courses of Medical Lectures, and graduated with the honors of a Medical College, before he commenced the practice of medicine. Now, how is it with the homœopathic physician? Every homœopathic physician in the country, who is in good standing, has been through precisely the same course, under the same instructions, and has graduated at an Allopathic Medical College; and a vast majority of the homœopathic physicians have practiced the old system for years. Therefore, so far as knowledge of the old practice is concerned, the homœopathic physician stands precisely on the same ground that the allopathic physician does; he has graduated with equal honors, and practiced the common system with equal success. So far, every one will acknowledge that they are equally entitled to the confidence of the sick. At this point one of these physicians, satisfied with the laurels already won, or, perhaps, honestly regarding Homœopathy as a humbug, rests upon his oars; whereas, the other has his attention called to Homœopathy. Perhaps he hearkens to the opinion of some homœopathic physician, whose opinion, while he was engaged in the old practice, all had respected, or perhaps he respects the testimo-



ny of many of his former patients, and there are plenty of such, who testify to every allopathic physician, as to the effects of homœopathic treatment; perhaps, we say, he can see no good reason why he should treat with contempt the direct testimony of all these physicians, and, more especially, of the multitude of disinterested patients, at so a simple matter of fact—the effects of homœopathic medicine. If he can disregard the above, perhaps he has seen some patient cured which he could not cure, or some supposed incurable disease cured by homœopathic treatment.

From some cause or other, he is induced to so far lay aside his prejudice, his pride of opinion, the shackles of party and medical associations, as to dare to think for himself, and investigate Homœopathy. Cautiously he commences the use of homœopathic remedies; before he has prescribed for a dozen patients, he becomes satisfied of the operation of infinitesimal doses, and within the first month all doubts are removed as to the entire truth of the homœopathic principle. Daily is he astonished to see the extent to which this principle can be carried out, and gradually, as he finds himself more successful in curing his patients with homœopathic remedies, does he substitute this treatment for the allopathic treatment, until the one takes the place of the other entirely. Perhaps, for the first time in his life, he now practices medicine with pleasure and real satisfaction. As he realizes the beauties of Homœopathy, he feels new life infused into him. If he is a grey headed man he becomes as enthusiastic as a child, and this is the universal fate of every physician who tests Homœopathy.

Now, we ask in all sincerity, what does the allopathic physician lose who investigates Homœopathy? He has all his allopathic measures, and can use them if necessary. Then is it not manifest that he has gained knowledge, the value of which no one can judge, except he who has faithfully tried both methods of treatment?

We ask any man possessing common sense whether the homœopathic physician who understands both methods of treatment, and has practiced them, is not better qualified to judge whether allopathic or homœopathic remedies will be best to cure a given case of disease, than the allopathic physician who has no knowledge of Homœopathy.

The homœopathic physician, if he is a conscientious and honest man, will use the best measures he has, to restore the health and save the lives of his patients, regardless of the source from which they come; if he is not an honest man, his very selfishness will compel him to do the best he can, for his popularity and purse depends on his success; therefore, it is manifest that if he relies on homœopathic treatment, it is because he is satisfied as to its superior efficacy, and we have seen from the above that he alone has the knowledge by which to judge. We think we have shown very fully why the sick dare trust homœopathic physicians, and we shall hereafter endeavor to show why both patients and physicians dare trust homœopathic treat-

ment, and why they dare not trust any other treatment, especially if they are much sick.

*Michigan Jour. Hom.*

## HAHNEMANN AND HIS REVIEWERS.

Hahnemann wrote and caused to be published, a paper entitled "Spirit of the Homœopathic doctrine," which was republished in the first volume of this journal. That paper was reviewed with great severity at the time it first appeared; to those reviewers he replied as follows:

"I have read a number of partial criticisms on the second part of my *Materia Medica Pura*, and especially on my treatise entitled "Spirit of the *Homœopathic*\* doctrine."

According to the general custom of authors, I might take this opportunity of showing up the folly of the authors of those criticisms. But I shall forbear. I do not wish to burden myself with the crime of perpetuating the errors of my foes, lest I should thus reveal them to a more enlightened posterity.

Let me make only a few general remarks.

It seems to me a foolish and very childish proceeding, to attempt to put down such a great reality as homœopathy is, by unintelligible and empty declamations, foolish explanations of the technicalities of homœopathy, contumelies heaped upon the homœopathic doctrine and its teachers, and a doubtful shaking of the head, resulting from speculative theories; whereas all arguments used against homœopathy should be derived from actual experience; the sophisms of my opponents remind me of the squibs which mischievous boys send off to tease people, but those things only hiss and crackle, and have a very bad effect.

Miserable sarcasms are not sufficient to overthrow homœopathy; they will rebound against their authors.

If you wish to overthrow homœopathy, gentlemen, brethren of the opposition, I will show a more efficient method to save your speculative theories and the whole of your therapeutic trash from utter annihilation. Just listen.

You are aware that the "spirit of the homœopathic doctrine" has triumphed over all your attacks. You had better leave that spirit alone. It would not do to joke with such spirits. It is said that there are spirits who keep up a constant uneasiness in the conscience of those who act contrary to their better feelings and convictions. Mark this,

\* The homœopathic doctrine has never taught to cure a disease by the very same agent which had produced it; this has been repeated to the foolish opponents of homœopathy over and over again, although to all appearances in vain; homœopathy professes to cure diseases by means of drugs which produce exactly similar, but not identical, symptoms.



my brother opponents, lest the voice of the internal judge should become too loud to be stifled.

There is another method by means of which the homœopathic doctrine can be overthrown in a short and sure manner, provided its overthrow is at all possible.

This doctrine rests exclusively upon experience. Imitate its indications and you will find that they are true. I ask of you what no author of any *Materia Medica* or system of Therapeutics has ever asked before. I ask of you, *most urgently*, to judge Homœopathy by its results.

Take a case, of course one for which a homœopathic remedy has already been discovered, note down all its perceptible symptoms in the manner which has been taught in the *Organon*, and with a correctness with which the author of homœopathy shall be perfectly satisfied, apply that drug which shall be perfectly homœopathic to all the symptoms, the dose having the size prescribed in the *Organon*, and avoiding all those heterogeneous influences which might disturb the action of the drug, and if, under these circumstances, the drug does not afford speedy and efficient help, then publish the failure to the world in a manner which shall make it impossible to gainsay the homœopathicity of the drug and the correctness of your proceedings, and the author of homœopathy will stand confounded and convicted.

*But do not resort to deception. Every fraud is sooner or later made manifest and stigmatized.*

Do you, gentlemen of the opposition, know a better way to refute the truths of homœopathy, cutting through the very soul of ancient and modern dogmatism—*ignea inest illis vis et celestis origo*—and conquering the obduracy of its contemners by the self-evident reasonableness of its teachings, its brilliant results in practice, and the approbation of those whose minds are untrammelled by speculative illusions?

Continue, if you choose, your twaddle against homœopathy; distort it, misinterpret it, calumniate and deride its author; the unprejudiced legions will soon be able to decide on which side is the truth.

The true homœopathic doctrine will shine in beautiful relief in the presence of the allopathic nonsense; it will chase away the night of antiquated errors. Who would despair of the ultimate triumph of common sense? It will triumph by affording *certain* help in diseases which have hitherto been treated with pounds and bottles of pernicious mixtures, sanctioned by routine and explained away by unintelligible twaddle.

What have you to say upon seeing the author of homœopathy and all his true disciples cure a proportionally much larger number of patients, affected with the most inveterate chronic maladies, in a pleasant manner, and without any danger of a relapse? Are you able to cure such chronic maladies? Do not the results which we obtain in the treatment of such inveterate diseases, laugh to scorn

your speculative skepticism, and the powerless routine of your orthodox corporation?

If you are desirous of obtaining similar results, do as we do. If not, well, then, continue to grope in the dark, in the midnight of your theories, allured hither and thither by your celebrated authorities that leave you in the lurch just there where help is necessary, dazzling you at first like *ignes fatui*, and leaving you ingulfed in the slough of ignorance and despond.

And then, overwhelmed with professional arrogance, head-strongness, weakness or indolence, continue to deride our sublime art; but remember that envy gnaws the rock of Truth in vain, and corrodes the very marrow of him who envies.

The truth of homœopathy could not fail to kindle into a flame the little spark of common sense which still glimmered in the gentlemen of the opposition; this is evident from the moanings and lamentations with which they fill their halls and journals about the approaching downfall of their orthodox delusions.

But behold! their brain is crowded so full with their hundred thousand cross-notions, illusive dogmas, systems, theories, and is so incapable of renouncing that useless trash, and substituting in its place the simple truths of homœopathy, and practicing them, both for their own benefit and that of mankind, that they feel indignant on account of not being able to attain the better, and therefore depreciate and deride it.

I truly pity my opponents. The falsities which they have been taught, are constantly hovering before their minds as truths; the fictions which have been inculcated upon their memories as infallible dogmas of faith, accredited by age and high sounding names, are still ringing in their ears; the illusive theories, the suppositions which have been taught as axioms, the *a priori* explanations, definitions, and distinctions of the school, have been read and re-read by them in print so many times over, and the constant application of their speculative rules in practice has given them such a habit of routine, that routine has become a second nature with my opponents, and that from blind routine they instinctively continue the practice which their enlightened common sense would condemn. At the very first sight of the patient they at once think of some anatomical region as the undoubted seat of the disease, or of some pathological name for the disease, and of ink and paper to write down the recipe which is necessarily associated with that name. Even if they were desirous of leading a truer and simpler professional life, one which should be more worthy of the good physician whom God has created for the welfare of suffering humanity, *they would scarcely be able.*

If this be the mental condition of my reviewers, how can it be expected that the reviews should be superior to their authors?



NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 16, 1848.

DR. S. R. KIRBY:

Dear Sir—Since I had the pleasure of meeting with you in New York, I have made inquiries of Dr. —, of this city, in regard to the treatment adopted by him for yellow fever, during the past summer, and the results. He informs me that he found my remarks correct—that it should be treated according to the symptoms as they are developed, as any fever or acute disease is treated. He lost none of his patients. The remedies were, aconite, arsenic, bell., nux. and veratrum. He had the fever severely himself, and was treated in like manner. I name these facts to corroborate my own observation and opinion as expressed with perhaps too much confidence. Still, sad experience has convinced me long ago, that allopathy is at least a grand error in what is called the medical art or science. This called my attention, many years ago, to homœopathy. Being in Florida, where we had no physician of this school, I procured Hahnemann's writings and made them a study. I chose to trust to nature, rather than the old school, after the loss of two children and many friends, by what I regarded very mistaken science. The result has been a scrutiny into the practice of such homœopaths as I have become acquainted with. Some I find do very well, treat cases promptly and succeed; others fail where they should cure. We all know that many men, of all professions, lack discrimination—some lack sound judgment. Are such suited to the care of the sick? We will not condemn those who are wanting in these important qualifications, but it is a serious evil. A diploma can't of itself effect cures. There is a wide field for homœopathy in the hands of really skilful physicians. I believe there is here as much quackery, under the protection of a diploma, among 150,000 people, as can be found in the world; and if I had the wealth I once possessed, I would try to render myself useful by establishing a dispensary and inducing some of the best practitioners in your school to come here. The school is under great obligations to you for your journal. I should like to be able to circulate a thousand copies every year, and establish a dispensary here, where the destitute could have relief gratis. Much suffering do I see and hear of, which ought to be relieved.

Very respectfully.

\* \* \* \* \*

FACTORYVILLE, Tioga Co., N. Y., }  
Oct 7, 1848. }

DOCT. KIRBY:

Dear Sir—Owing in part to a pressure of business, and partly to carelessness, I have neglected to remit to you the money for the present year, for your journal, which I now enclose to you.

And permit me barely to say to you that the more I apply my remedies upon the principle "similia similibus curantur," the more am I confirmed in the belief that it is the only curative principle. I threw aside allopathia entirely, about eighteen months since. I meet with opposition of the most rabid kind, but think that our system is constantly gaining ground.

With many wishes for the prosperity of our cause, I am

Yours, most sincerely,

J. L. CORBIN,  
Physician and Surgeon.

*Arsenic in Furunculus and Acne.* By Dr. Schweich.—Dr. Schweich has prescribed arsenic with great success, in various cases of furunculus that have come under his care for some time past, and has found the cure very durable, and the use of the medicine, during which the ordinary diet may be continued, attended with no inconvenience. He begins with 4 drops of Fowler's solution forenoon and afternoon, until a drachm has been taken, and then gives 5 drops until the second, and 6 drops until the third is attained, and so on. *Acne simplex*, in which the notty pustular appearance of the eruption gives it the character of a miniature furuncle, and which is often so obstinate, and, when attacking the face of young people, so annoying, yields as readily to the arsenic. The injurious effect of aperients in these affections leads to the supposition that the source of the dyscrasis is a specific irritation of the alimentary canal, which is only augmented by the stimulus of purgatives, especially the saline.

*Casper's Wochenschrift*, No. 6.

*Quinine in Insanity.* By M. Piorry.—M. Piorry has of late prescribed large doses of quinine in certain cases of insanity, with speedy and good effect. They have been especially cases in which the insanity has seemed to have been connected with certain changes of the functions of the organs of sense—especially of hearing; or in the case of hypochondriasis, with certain abdominal sensations. Periodicity is a characteristic in many of these cases, just as it is in other affections of the nervous system; and hence the utility of the quinine in such.—*Gaz. des Hop.*

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the , 'AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY,' may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

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Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

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Dr. C. H. Held.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1849.

To the American Institute of Homœopathia.

GENTLEMEN,—Your committee, to whom was referred the consideration of a *Resolution* adopted by this Institute, during its last annual session, on the "*employment of Emetics and Cathartics*" by Homœopathic Physicians, has given the subject some consideration, and now, with your leave, offers the following *Report*.

W. E. PAYNE, M.D.

Bath, Me., June, 1848.

When first considering the character of the *Resolution* above referred to, your committee must confess that he felt not a little surprise that the Institute should have suffered a momentary arrest of its attention by such a proposition; as it appeared that the exact relation of such agents, to the homœopathic art, must have been obvious to every one who had but a moderate understanding, even, of the principles upon which homœopathy, as an art, is based. He, therefore, thought that nothing could be said that every *theoretical* and *prac-*

*tical* homœopath did not before know, and was willing to make a rule of his conduct for the tranquility of his own conscience, and the fulfilment of his duty to homœopathy. But more mature reflection, together with known instances of recreancy with some professed homœopathic physicians, show, in clearer light, the necessity of making known to the world a criterion by which a correct judgment might be passed upon those who offer themselves as servants of the public. The imputation may be made, without becoming obnoxious to the charge of uncharitableness, that much of homœopathic ground is occupied by *exotics*—a kind of *tare* that *will* grow with the *wheat*,—with those (to drop the figure) who enter the profession from no other than mercenary motives—ready at all times to *cater* to the whims and prejudices of the public. In consideration of this fact, a further necessity became apparent that this Institute should assume an attitude, in relation to this class of (so called) homœopathic physicians, that cannot be mistaken for *favor*, or *supineness*. Homœopathy is beset with foes from without, who would crush her if they could. But from such she has nothing to fear, if her *friends* are true to the great principles which Hahnemann fought so long and energetically to establish. Upon the principles of christian charity, and common courtesy, we should treat such opponents with respect, so far as they demean themselves by an honest and fair opposition. For we hold that every man's opinion, in this matter, so far as to meet him upon the *plane* of scientific reasoning, provided his opinion is grounded in his own rational perceptions, and, is put forth as the honest conviction of his own mind. But as practical *physicians*, we should leave them alone to the enjoyment of all the glory they may be able to win by the practice of their art. In our own household we have a foe far more formidable;

and if it were possible to arrest truth when it has once found an abiding place among men, by its salutary influence in assuaging suffering, then might we, with great reason, fear that the end of Homœopathy was near. Against such influences it seems necessary that those who have the good of homœopathy at heart, and consequently that of their fellow men, should oppose a barrier. And upon this ground, and this alone, does your committee conclude to go forward to the duty assigned him.

All systems of medical practice, from the very infancy of the art, down to the appearance of homœopathy, however much they may have *professed*, and *appeared* to differ in essence, were, in reality only different *phases* of the same *monstrous* growth; and all new theories and systems that have arisen since that period, are but *exerescences* which heighten the deformity to a still more loathsome degree. *Thompsonianism*, *Chrono-Thermalism*, *Hydropathy*, etc., are all offsprings of the old system of medical practice, and all belong to an old dispensation that is fast passing away—a dispensation of old things in *medicine*, in *science*, in *philosophy*, and in *civil government*, and all must together work their way for evil or for good, and at last be numbered with the things that were.

A result very different from this awaits Homœopathy. Your committee believes it can be shown by a course of scientific and philosophic reasoning, with the evidence of its almost simultaneous appearance with other great regenerating events of both the moral and physical worlds, that homœopathy is a new dispensation in medicine, and belongs to a new era in *science*, *philosophy*, and *civil government*, and with them must pass along in the fulfilment of her office of good to mankind. She is not an offspring of the old system of medicine. There is no *transition link* to connect her with theories and systems of by-gone days. She stands, in relation to such, isolated and alone. She has no claim upon the indulgence of her predecessor; she asks, and desires no favor at her hand—she asserts her rights without fear, and will maintain them without favor.

If this be the true character and position of Homœopathy, it is not surprising that she should be an object of suspicion and hatred, and be denounced as not of the true “faith and order,”—“a deceiver of the people,”—and that threats of excommunication should

be hurled against all those who, in the majesty of freedom, openly confess and embrace the truth: or that such threats should be enforced sometimes, as examples of terror to the weak but honest enquirer. The history of every new truth presents us examples of uncompromising hostility in far more exalted places than the “New York Academy of Medicine,” or the “National Convention of Allopathic Physicians.” At the establishment of the christian dispensation, we learn from high authority, that he who was cured of his blindness, was thrust out of the synagogue, because he was prompted by gratitude and sincere convictions of right, to acknowledge openly, the authorship of a benefaction so immense. And we further learn that the Jews agreed among themselves that, if *any* man acknowledge Christ as the true Messiah, *he* should be put out of the synagogue. If the mere fear of losing a place of distinction and profit, moved a spirit of opposition so strong among the Jewish Rabbis—a class of people who professed to be governed by the command, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” can we expect less at the establishment of a new Dispensation in medicine, when similar motives are operative among that class of people who are as proverbial as the Jews for their illiberal and patronizing spirit?

Homœopathy is the science of specifics—the realization of an idea which is fast gaining ground in the philosophical world, that no one thing in the whole world of creation, is exactly like another; or can fill the place, or perform the office of anything but itself; and that this diversity of conformation and use, is required for the formation of a perfect whole, as the variety of form and use of the various organs and tissues are required to make a perfect human body. Everything, even the most minute, has a distinct place to fill, and a particular office to perform, which can never be completely filled or performed by another. This is an idea not less true than it is beautiful, and it shows us the mutual dependence upon each other of all things, and demonstrates the truth of the proverb that “nothing was made in vain.” All things are thus seen to assume a dignity of character; and this is enhanced in the degree that each one works out, faithfully, its legitimate duties in the world; for thus each is performing an indispensable office which cannot be accomplished by aught else. He who is disposed to think there is an identity of properties, and use, in any two



things in the surrounding world, or that the uses of one thing can be replaced by those of another, he may obtain a sufficient amount of evidence to convince him of the erroneous tendency of his thoughts, by critically examining and comparing the symptoms developed by the various bodies contained in the homœopathic *Materia Medica*. He may take the two hundred and fifty drugs, compare symptom with symptom, and after making all necessary allowance for the inadequacy of our language, for the expression of ideas, and the difference of judgment of the different provers, he will find a difference so marked as to convince him that each body maintains an independent position and occupies a sphere that can never be occupied by any thing else. Now when passing over this range of two hundred and fifty bodies; promiscuously selected, he finds a diversity so marked as to leave no doubt that, so far the rule is without an exception, he may by inductive reasoning, arrive at a tolerable degree of certainty that such is the fact throughout nature's wide domain.

The objects of the surrounding world, admit of a two-fold relation; both having a direct and particular reference to man. One is for the formation and sustentation of his body in health; the other is for its restoration and support when it falls into disease. The one class we call *nutrients*, and the other *poisons*. But they are both really supporters of life in their own legitimate spheres; but out of them they induce disease, and at length death.—Thus, that which imparts nutriment and support to the body in a state of health, becomes a fruitful source of disease, and the ally of death, when the body becomes sick. And so with the other class which we call *poisons*.—In a state of health they become poisonous to the system; but when the organism is diseased they then become supports of life until the relation is changed. A consciousness of the necessity, and a desire for food, in a state of health, are grounded in this immutable relation of the human body with the circumambient world; while a conscious necessity and desire for medicine, in disease, have their origin in the same cause. Now we know from experience, and legitimate inference, that every object belonging to this class of (so called) poisons, has the power of developing an independent disease, when introduced into the organism in a state of health—a disease that no other drug can exactly assimilate; and this truth underlies the whole art of homœopathy.

It is from a knowledge of this fact that the true homœopath ceases to generalize—ceases to rest the result of his treatment upon vague *Nosologies* and *Pathologies*; and first seeks to place in his mind, a true likeness of the disease, and then searches for a corresponding likeness in the symptomatology of drugs. He knows he cannot discard a symptom, even the most minute, if he would not fail to get an exact image of the disease. If he overlooks, or ejects one symptom, he fails to get the image, or destroys a feature which may give character to the disease, and consequently must fail to get a corresponding likeness from the vocabulary of drug symptoms. As well might the limner, in portraying a particular face, rest the perfection of his picture upon the mere formation of the most general features, such as a *nose, eyes, mouth, forehead, chin, ears*, etc., and reject all the particular lineaments, and call that a true image; or a painter, in depicting a landscape, rest its perfection upon the mere formation of *land, trees, shrubbery*, etc., and disregard the *form*, and *particular arrangement* of objects contained in the view, together with *light, shade*, and the *laws of perspective*, and expect an exact transcript. What man, even the most sweeping generalizer, would not regard such a painter as entirely ignorant of the first principles of his art? And yet the above example perfectly illustrates the character of the generalizer in homœopathy.

Every diseased state of the human organism, is represented by some object in the surrounding world; or every object embraced in that grand division called drugs, or poisons, is an embodiment of active principles, similar in their character to those operative influences, which, when exhibited in the organism, we call disease. This truth is taught us by observation and experience. For example, an individual after exposure to cold, or depressing atmospheric influences, is suddenly seized by shiverings and chills, alternating with flushes of heat, or followed by burning heat over the whole body. Short and hurried respiration, hacking and dry cough, with stitching pains in the chest—also, during deep inspiration, cough much excited or increased by every deep inspiration, or when attempting to speak: or else hard and dry cough, with pain in the head, and shootings in the sides, or cough with expectoration, *viscid, tenacious, lumpy*, and often *mucosanguineous*. The above are some of the general symptoms that

characterize an inflammatory state of the lungs. Of course, in most cases, other symptoms would exist, requiring note, in order to complete the picture for practical purposes. But these symptoms are sufficient for our design. Now this group of symptoms may be exactly assimilated by the introduction of *phosphorus* into the system when in a state of health, in quantities sufficient to induce disease—showing conclusively that the operating influences, in both instances, are similar, for exactly similar effects result in both cases; and it is an axiom that “*like effects can only result from the operation of like causes.*” True, other drugs may induce symptoms indicative of inflammation of the lungs, but no other drug can exactly assimilate a *phosphorous pneumonia*. We have only to subject the organism to the influence of the various substances that will not subserve for nutriment in a state of health, to assimilate every disease with which the human body is, or ever can be affected, unless in the mutation and progressive development of the outward world of nature, the character of these bodies so change as to make them differ essentially from what they now are; in which case there will be a corresponding change in the character of diseases. The homœopathic Materia Medica will be incomplete, and consequently the homœopathic physician will be proportionably limited, until every one of these poisons, or drugs, are proved upon the healthy organism. This conclusion can hardly admit of doubt, for the proof is ample and convincing to all who are willing to admit a small portion of evidence upon the assent of the rational faculties. But even the single assent of reason, unsupported by experience, will not be long required, for the fact that every *natural disease* may be assimilated by a *drug disease*, is being daily demonstrated by the labors of a few indefatigable homœopaths, in the trial of new drugs. Out of the two hundred and fifty of such bodies selected without regard to their *sectional locality*, or *chemical* or *botanical* differences, we have as many distinct diseases which have nothing in common but a general morbid resemblance. It is said as many distinct diseases; but it seems that each drug has the power of developing many diseases. This is not the fact. Again, we will take phosphorus as an example. This drug develops one group of symptoms which we call *Pneumonia*; another called *typhus abdominalis*, etc. Now these are not really fully de-

veloped, distinct, and individual diseases. They are merely fragments of a phosphorus disease; or groups of phosphorous symptoms, having a local and particular development. And if it were possible for any *one* body to sustain the whole power of phosphorus, without death, we might see all that it is possible for phosphorus to effect, successively developed in one body. But this can never be. Owing to an hereditary tendency to disease, or some other cause, one organ is prone to take on more of the disease than any other organ; or the distinctive tendency is stronger towards one organ than to any other, and this organ is deprived of its power to sustain its harmonious relation with other organs of the body, and disease ensues, and at length death, before the full power of the drug can be developed. But in each group of symptoms, we shall find those which characterize the group as belonging to a phosphoric disease. Now in selecting a remedy for any group of symptoms, it is necessary that this distinctive feature of the drug, as shown in a particular group, should be known, otherwise we must fail of success. It is not necessary that we should remember every symptom, but the symptom that characterises the group, as one belonging to a particular drug. When investigating a case of disease, we shall observe one or more group of symptoms, which for mere convenience we honor with some special name—it matters not. After collecting and arranging every symptom, even the most minute, according to its relative value, we shall have a perfect picture of the disease. Now we shall find on looking over the picture, that it possesses many symptoms in common with many groups. These general features are so strong and prominent, often times, as to present almost the same appearance. Nevertheless, the group as a whole, is unlike any other group. The question then comes up, What is the distinguishing feature? What has this group of symptoms about it, by which it can be distinguished by any or all other groups? This is the question to be decided by the physician. And when this is correctly done, he turns his attention to drug diseases, to find an exact resemblance—to find its Daguerreotype. In following this course, the work is accomplished without lumbering the memory with the host of symptoms which every drug is capable of developing; for, as surely as the distinctive feature of the group of drug symptoms corresponds with the distinctive feature of a



group of symptoms developed in the organism by natural causes, so surely will the correspondence hold good throughout. This general law, which governs the relation of both *natural* and *drug* diseases, will not admit of an exception. This is *Homœopathy*—"RATIONAL HOMŒOPATHY," in its broadest and most particular sense. Here we might close the subject, for it is an inevitable sequence of our reasoning, that *Emetics* and *Cathartics*, have no place in the *Therapia* of Homœopathy. But there are those who adhere to the necessity of such means, from misconception of the extent of the homœopathic law. There are others who, though they see the illimitable power of the homœopathic law, still cling to the necessity of such means, from the present comparatively limited resources of Homœopathy. There is yet another class who allow themselves the latitude of all practices, from habits of indolency; and still another who do so from a disposition to ride upon the flood-tide of popular prejudice. To the first mentioned class we have only time to say, that the general principles which it has been the endeavor to illustrate in the preceding part of this Report, are limited only by the boundaries of disease. No argument can overthrow them, however weak the attempt by your committee has proved to illustrate them. For the satisfaction of the second class named, it may be well to pursue the subject a little further. To the third and fourth classes we have nothing to offer, but *pity* for the one; and for the duplicity of the other, the contempt of all honest men.

The employment of *cathartics*, then, will first claim our attention. It is presumed that, that class of homœopaths to whom the following remarks are addressed, would not attempt to justify the employment of a *cathartic* in any case except that of long continued suppression of the excretions of the intestinal tube; and on no other ground but the present limited resources of the homœopathic *Materia Medica*. The tenableness of the first excuse will be examined a little here, in detail; but the consideration of the latter will be left 'till *emetics* are considered.

Constipation, or suspended excretions, may depend upon *inertia* of the intestinal tube, as a proximate cause, as in sluggish or cachectic, or paralyzed individuals; or upon *spasm*, as in colics, and some other forms of acute diseases; or upon a deficiency of the *secretions* and *excretions* of some one or more of the

abdominal organs. Now in all these conditions, suspended defecation is only symptomatic, but it is a symptom so general that we can hardly even fix upon it as characteristic of the disease. In every variety of the above mentioned conditions, we shall find a group of symptoms more or less extended, which group represents a pathological condition as truly as would represent thoughts, and actions represent feelings; and this group of symptoms constitute the only guide to the true condition of the organism. He who disregards these *indices* of disease, and thinks to apply a remedy by guessing at the disease, may, with equal propriety, expect a transfer of his body to a distant place without intermediate steps; or expect the creation of a picture without *paints* of *various colors*, and *iris*, with a total disregard of *perspective*, and the laws of *chionoscuro*. Now as *suspended defecation*, or *constipation*, is only one symptom of a group—an integral part of a whole, it is clear its removal cannot be alone effected, without changing the relation of all the other symptoms of the group, and substituting, for the time at least, a medicinal symptom—making the disease, by complication, probably worse; possibly better. A true Homœopath would not seek to alter the *phasis* of a single symptom, for by so doing he cripples his ability, and thus defeats the accomplishment of his own purpose. He would, therefore, proceed to the removal of *constipation* in the same way that he would proceed to the removal of any other symptom, viz.: by transferring to paper, every symptom, even the most minute—give to each a systematic and orderly arrangement—seek out the feature that distinguished the group from all others, then turn to his record of drug symptoms, and seek there a group that will correspond, and by virtue of the homœopathic law—the universal law of kindred consociation, he will surely see the desired result follow his labor.

The above are a few of the many objections from Theory, which might be offered against the employment of Cathartics for the removal of constipation. Does experience sustain the objections? This question is answered in the affirmative by the united observations of the *profession*, and the *laity*. If constipation is the disease, and not merely a symptom, or fragment, then surely it would be the most easily removed of any disease, by the ordinary routine practice. But does the old school doctor, who professes to treat diseases accord-

ing to their pathology, carry out their professions in the treatment of this one "disease,"—constipation? We shall see. He first decides the nature of his case. Suspended excretion is dependent on inactivity of the intestinal tube; or a deficiency of biliary secretions and excretions; or, perhaps, it is owing to a constricted state of the tube. This question is decided. Does he adapt a remedy to his supposed pathology. No: physic is his "sheet-anchor," upon the strength of which he rests his whole hope of success. Now, what is the result of this, as shown by common observation? In the *first* and *second* cases, i. e., in *inactivity* of the intestinal tract, and *deficiency* of *secretions* and *excretions*, the mechanical and poisonous qualities of the drug, excite an increased action of the whole canal, which causes, to be sure, a disgorgement of the fecal contents, and a momentary relief to some remote part of the system, during the most active period of the drug disease. But a corresponding state of inactivity must follow; and we see, in the end, he has gained absolutely nothing; but has added to the former condition the depressing influence of a drug disease. Now all experience shows us that these two opposite states follow the employment of all drugs taken in cathartic doses: first, a violent disgorgement of the contents of the bowels—then follows a corresponding inactive state. The same opposite states result from all violent influences upon the organism, that is, if reaction even takes place at all. Plunge your hand into cold water or snow, and you, at first, get a cold, pale, and shrunken state of the hand; then follows a corresponding heat, redness, and puffed condition. Sleep, and inordinate wakefulness, follow the employment of Opium in Allopathic doses; and so on through the whole catalogue. And in the latter condition, that is, when constipation is dependent on spasm, as a proximate cause, the result of cathartics is much worse than in the before mentioned conditions. The local irritation, produced by the mechanical and poisonous qualities of the drug, is added to that already existing in the bowels, and death is not unfrequently the result. Hence, one often hears of death from *bilious cholic*, or *inflammation* of the bowels, because "*physic would not operate*;" when, in fact, *physic* operated in the very way one *might* suppose it would operate. Thus, we may see what a Homœopath would gain; or rather what he would *not* gain by the employment of cathartics. He would not

even suppress that one symptom, for the removal of which he had given the cathartic; but instead, would add to the original group of symptoms, a group of medicinal symptoms, which would so mask the disease, as to render it impossible to make out the distinctive feature, and thus preclude all possibility of adapting a remedy. He must then abandon all hope of pursuing the homœopathic treatment of his patient, and of necessity throw himself, with his patient, into the blind mazes of Allopathy, the end of which would be, most likely, a complete wreck of all his most ardent wishes, unless nature, by chance, in the conflict, should gain the ascendancy and avert the impending blow. Such is a very brief and imperfect statement of the relation of cathartics to homœopathy; and to their above described effects upon the human organism, it is believed every observing, and unbiassed physician must bear testimony.

We now turn our attention, for a few moments, to the consideration of *Emetics*. It is obvious, that in regard to their admissibility into the category of Therapeutic agents, the same objections may be offered, and the same arguments used that negative the efficacy of *Cathartics*. A medicinal disease of like virulence would follow their employment, and provided no injury would result to the organism from the depressing influence of such medicinal disease, we should get, combined with the original disease, a group of drug symptoms, which would place even a hope of defining the boundaries of the natural disease, and consequently choosing a remedy according to the homœopathic law, entirely out of the question. Every Homœopath will readily see the injury which is thus inevitable from the employment of such means. And in what direction could he look for an adequate favorable result? We are told that the stomach sometimes contains impurities, such as *bile*, *mucus*, and other vitiated secretions, which must be ejected in order that the stomach may regain its wonted *tone* and *energy*. But when such matters are contained in the stomach, they are mere *effects* of a derangement of the vital, or life forces—of a disease more deeply seated, and *not* the *cause* of disease. This may be seen to be true by a little reflection; and it is a matter of much surprise that the old school doctors, after having been engaged for two thousand years, with the merest shadow of success, in this work of cleaning the stomach of these "im-



purities," have not suspected, even, the soundness of their reasoning. As well might one after mingling poison at the fountain-head of New York's far-famed Croton, expect to purify its waters by ejecting from the contents of one of its reservoirs; or commence the purification by mingling some counteracting agent with the water of one or more of its branches, as expect to remove the *cause* upon which these vitiated matters are dependent, by forcibly ejecting them from the stomach. There would be just as much philosophy in the one as in the other, and yet the above examples are a perfect illustration of the philosophy of the old school practice of medicine. And herein, it may be incidentally remarked, is a grand distinction between Homœopathy and Allopathy. The latter are in constant effort to remove *effects*, while the former are as constantly at work removing *causes*. The Homœopath cares for *effects* only as they lead him to *causes*. Symptoms are only *effects* of a disturbance of the vital or life forces, and by these symptoms the Homœopath is led onward to the cause, and to the cause there is no other way of approach. Therefore he would not suppress, or in any way mask a symptom; for on the instant of such an act he loses his way. But an Allopath does not look beyond the effect. If pain is present, which is but the effect, and consequently a true expression of the disease, as far as it goes, he gives opium to put it out of the way. But this is accomplished only while the opium disease is operative. If the bowels are constricted, (another symptom) he gives "physic," and during the activity of the medicinal disease, constipation is overcome; but to be followed by a worse constriction than before existed. If there is a *scirrhus* condition of the *mammary gland*, (another symptom) he removes it with the knife; but the only influence this has over the *cause*, is to force it to embody itself in some more vital organ, and dissolution is proportionably hastened: and so on through the whole catalogue. Thus, we may see that the *pathological*, or old school doctor, is *really* the *symptomatic* doctor, for his whole effort is to suppress symptoms, beyond which he cannot go; while the Homœopath takes symptoms as his guide, in his effort to reach causes.

Your committee can see no instance wherein the promotion of vomiting by artificial means, is at all admissible, except in instances where some foreign and indigestible body

is taken into the stomach, and is not spontaneously ejected by the revolting powers of the system. And in such an instance it should be resorted to for the same reasons that we would remove a foreign substance from the flesh of any portion of the body. But *emetics* are *hardly* ever, if ever, necessary to effect this object. Drinking freely of luke-warm water, or irritating the *fauces* with the point of the finger, will always, perhaps, effect the desired object; and whenever symptoms remain, after the removal of the offending matter, should be treated by a *dynamized* drug—homœopathic to them. If, by possibility, a case should arise when the offending matter could not be removed in any other way than by the aid of an *emetic*, it would be right and proper to resort to such an expedient. But your committee can affirm, that, in the pretty extensive experience of eight years, he has not seen an instance where indigestible bodies have not been removed by the means above mentioned, without the aid of *emetics*.

In view of the above considerations, it is the opinion of your committee that, with the above mentioned exceptions, (if it can be called anything more than an exception against probabilities,) the employment of either *Emetics* or *Cathartics*, by homœopathic physicians, is not only unnecessary, but highly improper. It would not only derange and complicate the whole natural development of the disease, but it would be rendering countenance and support to a system of medication that has no foundation but in the imagination, and divert the attention of the physician from the legitimate aim of medicine, and belie the powers and resources of the homœopathic art.

As to the necessity of employing *Emetics* and *Cathartics*, together with other Allopathic means, in consequence of the limited resources of the Homœopathic *Materia Medica*, your committee is aware that an *honest* difference of opinion may obtain. But it is believed that a judicious experience, alone, will settle the question. An experience of eight years, on the part of your committee, which embraces a pretty extensive range of diseases, satisfies him that, if such necessity does exist with Homœopaths, instances requiring such aid are very rare indeed. Cases have repeatedly occurred in the course of his practice, where the bowels have remained inactive from *three* to *fifteen* days, in acute diseases, after which this symptom gave way, with others, and the evacuations of the body were as perfectly

natural as if the functions of the body, all along, had been performed healthily. And in *chronic diseases* he has known a longer period, even, elapse between the evacuations without the slightest injury.

Your committee once thought that there *might* be a necessity, in the present state of the science, to adopt other means than those presented by homœopathy, in the treatment of diseases; and this may have been the case with almost every Homœopath. But much reflection, with considerable experience of the ample resources of homœopathia, satisfied him that such an admission, without considerable qualification, would leave one standing upon dangerous ground. One of its bad results would be, carelessness in the study of the *Materia Medica*, and in urgent and obscure cases, a hasty abandonment of the homœopathic law; and would, eventually, end in a return to the "glorious uncertainty" of Allopathy. It is not believed that we have, within our reach, a specific for every disease which might by possibility, come up for treatment; for this would pre-suppose a perfection of our *Materia Medica*—and this can never be, until every substance possessed of poisonous properties, have been proved upon the healthy organism. If a case comes up, that cannot be covered by the present resources of homœopathia, and the patient is desirous of trying allopathic treatment, we think it would be best for him to place himself under the charge of an allopathic physician, for in so doing, this benefit would arise, if no other, the physician would not belie his conscience by pursuing a course counter to his own convictions of right. And should a patient pass out of our hands into those of an Allopath, and, by chance recover, (a circumstance, by the way, that does not often occur,) what then? We, surely, are not so *poor* in *results* that we cannot afford to lose some; neither are our allopathic brethren so *rich* in *success* as not to need them.

To those who have a belief in the ever watchful care of a Divine Providence, it will seem probable that all necessary means have been provided for the protection and comfort of the creatures of His will; and that in accordance with this provident care, a remedy has been provided for every disease—and that man's knowledge of these remedies, must be somewhat in a *ratio* with the necessities for their use. If this be admitted, (and of its truth there can be no doubt,) there must be

made, as the result of legitimate reasoning, the further admission that the range of diseases of the present day correspond, very nearly, to the drugs, the properties of which have been learned in the only way by which the properties of drugs can be known, viz., by trial on the healthy organism. We say our remedies are limited in numbers. This is a necessary sequence of our course of reasoning; but it is believed that a knowledge of remedies, by the majority of homœopathic physicians, is far more limited than the remedies themselves, and from this cause, alone, arise a large proportion of the failures that follow the labors of those engaged in the homœopathic profession. And here it may be permitted to adduce a case illustrative of the want of knowledge of remedies. The case occurred two years since. The patient was about forty years of age, and had been an *asthmatic* for about twenty years. Like most other *asthmatics*, he had exhausted the skill of the Allopathic school, together with the whole catalogue of *quack nostrums* palmed upon the public as "*sure cures*" for the "thousand and one" complaints to which flesh is heir; and "*was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.*" In one of his struggles for help, he fell upon a *nostrum* which put an end, as he verily believed, to all his sufferings. But, mark the sequel! Instead of the long-looked for immunity from suffering, he got in exchange, what were termed, *cramps* of the stomach—presenting a very alarming aspect, and subjecting him to far greater suffering than he had ever before endured, during his worst paroxysms of asthma. By repeated doses of *morphia*, followed by *cathartics*, each attack was subdued; but he was usually left in a very debilitated and miserable condition, from which he was a long time in recovering. Every subsequent attack became more unmanageable, and lasted longer, satisfying him, at last, that there was no hope of cure from the course he was then pursuing; and he determined to try homœopathy for the very next attack. The opportunity was not long wanting; and I was called in the morning. His disease was then presenting its usual aspect in form and severity at that early period. He said that he had suffered all night—that the pain, as usual, gradually increased in severity, and unless relieved it appeared to him that it would soon get past endurance; also, that he had never been relieved except by *opium*, or *morphia*, and this was making such in-



roads upon his health, he felt that he should not long survive the attacks, and the means used to remove them. My observation did not confirm the *reported* location of the pain, but instead of the stomach, its centre was in the right side of the chest, beneath the *fifth*, *sixth*, and *seventh* ribs, anterior to their angles—extending along the margin of the false ribs, and reaching as far forward and downward as the *epigastrium*, and sometimes extended through to the back. I am unable to give an intelligible description of the pain, for I never could get a satisfactory idea from the patient. It was *cramp-like*, as nearly as I could judge from the patient's accent; remittent, but never intermittent. After it commenced it never ceased without the aid of medicine. There was no soreness on pressure, nor did it seem to be influenced in any way by respiration or motion of the body. After a hasty examination of the case, but considering principally the character of his former attacks of asthma, I gave *nux v.*; but without relief. I then gave *Puls.* with apparent good effect. This partial relief continued until late in P. M., when the pain returned with renewed force. *Puls.* no longer gave relief. The disease increased to a frightful degree. The surface of the body was covered by a *cold, clammy* sweat. Feet and hands very cold. Pulse full, rather slow, and oppressed. Frightful contortion of the eyes—at times rolled upwards, with tears running from them as if suffering intense grief. This rolling upwards of the eyes, and contortion of the limbs, did not seem to be, properly, spasmodic; but merely an effort of the patient to obtain some relief by inflicting pain on some remote part of the body. He exerted a great degree of physical strength—clenching any object in his way, with a Herculean grasp, and assumed almost every position in which the body could be placed. The severe paroxysms of pain were succeeded by a form of suffering, worse, if possible, than the pain, viz.: a feeling, as he expressed it, as if the whole stomach would fall out. This, in general, was the condition of the patient, when I had been with him eight or ten hours. I had used every drug, the pathogenesis of which bore any similarity to the case, as far as I was then able to judge, and all without the least possible perceptible effect. The patient was evidently growing worse, and his wife, together with other friends, were becoming very uneasy, as well they might, and talked strongly,

as I afterwards learned, of sending for their old physician. All confidence would have been lost long before, and another physician called, had they not been surrounded by my friends, and the friends of homœopathy, who inspired hope even against all probability. "Hold on a little longer," said they; "we think Homœopathy will yet prevail." But here was the patient in apparently a sinking condition, and all the available resources of homœopathy were exhausted. What is to be done? was the question constantly recurring. Shall I abandon him to Allopathy, where I am sure he will gain nothing but palliation, or palliate myself, and during the interval of relief, institute one more search for a remedy? I determined to pursue the latter course; for, if I did not succeed in finding a homœopathic remedy, the patient would be no worse off than if now turned over to allopathy, and I could but abandon him then, for I had long before determined never to attempt to *cure* a patient by allopathic means. I accordingly dissolved 2 grs. of *Morph. Sulph* in 4 tablespoonfuls water, and gave a teaspoonful of the mixture every 15 to 20 minutes. Very soon its effects were manifest in relief, which was perfectly satisfactory to the patient and friends, though they knew not by what means it was obtained. I then left him for the night; but on returning the following morning, found he had not slept, but was indulging all sorts of *fancies*—happy—laughing—talking—a half intoxicated expression, constant itching and rubbing of the nose—itching, and scratching of the scalp and skin of the whole body. On entering the room he accosted me in a peculiarly pert way—"holloa, doctor! I am as happy as a king—have not slept a wink—would not sleep for the world—feel just as if I had taken opium." Ordered strong coffee, and left him for two hours. On my return, found him calm; had slept—but some uneasiness of the side. No further medicine was given at that time. Visited him again in the evening; pain had increased gradually, but ordered nothing. I the meantime applied myself to the *Mat. Med. Pura.*, at all leisure moments. I retired that night with gloomy anticipations—more for the honor of homœopathy than the temporary arrest of confidence in me as a physician, and consequent decrease of practice. In accordance with my expectations was again summoned very early in the morning. Found my patient suffering severely from pain of the same character, and

in the same location. He had not slept for the night; or even laid down but for a moment at a time. The same gloomy prospect was in anticipation—or it can hardly be said to have been in anticipation—for it was even at the door. In the *interim*, however, I had made choice of the only remedy which I proposed trying, upon the failure of which I determined to turn him over to allopathy—not from the conclusion that Homœopathy, as a principle, was inefficient; but, that either her resources had not been sufficiently developed, or that my knowledge of the *Mat. Med. Pura.*, was not sufficient to enable me to adapt a remedy to the case in question. I had no questions to ask. I had pre-determined, and it only remained to carry that determination into act. I therefore ordered a little soft water, into a half tumbler of which I dropped two drops of *Colch. 3.*, and after agitating it briskly for a few seconds, gave a teaspoonful. Two minutes may have elapsed, when he said the pain was going; and when I took my leave of him, say ten minutes from the time I entered his apartment, he was almost wholly relieved. Two years have since elapsed, and he has not had the slightest return, or had not at my last intelligence. His asthma returned: for two or three paroxysms of which I prescribed with relief; but as he removed to a distant part of the country, I could not pursue the treatment. Now, nothing can be more certain to the senses, than that the *colch.* was effective here; and that it was *not* effective by any principle of action acknowledged by the old school, is equally certain. Its material bulk transcended the limits of any thing to which they attach power; and its action was much more rapid than ever observed of *colch.*, in its crude state. Now as it is certain that the *colch.* did produce effects, it is equally certain that by its preparation and peculiar relation to the disease, for which it was given, a power altogether unknown to old school physicians became available. The power was not *alone* the result of the preparation of the drug,—neither *alone* the result of the peculiar relation which the drug bore to the disease; but the result of both combined. If either condition had been disregarded, the result would have been changed. There are many states of the system in which *colch.* of the 3rd. attenuation, would not produce any perceptible effect; much less a favorable one: and even when the *peculiar*, or homœopathic relation does exist between the drug and disease, the

crude drug fails to accomplish what is accomplished by the same drug in an attenuated, or *potentized* form. These are not mere speculations, but *facts*, observed and confirmed by numerous acute, careful, industrious, and honest minds.

But to return to the more direct object of detailing the above case, it may be seen that a very different result might have followed, and consequently very different conclusions might have been drawn, had the case taken the turn that seemed almost inevitable. Had I abandoned it, as I was often on the point of doing, I might have decided, by the aid of a very small share of vanity, that either the homœopathic principle was at fault, or the *Materia Medica* did not contain a remedy homœopathic to the disease, when, in fact, neither was the case, as the result proved. It is true the homœopathicity of *colch.* to the above case is not so strongly marked (owing, as I suppose, to the imperfect proving of the drug,) that one would approach it without hesitation; but its homœopathic features are sufficiently marked to bespeak for it, a trial in a case presenting the general features of the above, before abandoning it. Cramp-like pains, are quite characteristic of *colch.*; cramps of the chest; sudden sinking of strength, as was the case in the *epigastrium* and *chest*,—also, aggravation of all the symptoms at night, and sweat, are symptoms which show more directly the homœopathy of *colch.* But, by a more strict analysis, its homœopathicity may become more apparent, even with the present fragmentary proving of *colchicum*.

I am aware that, while this case shows us that many failures may be attributed to a want of *knowledge* of what remedies we already have, rather than to the limited number, it may be used to prove the propriety of resorting to palliatives in order to acquire time for the choice of a remedy; and this propriety we may admit, with much qualification. But your committee can hardly conceive of a state of the system, differing from the above, unless it may be that of a *neuralgic* character, wherein the allopathic employment of medicines for the purpose of palliating sufferings, even to acquire time for the selection of a remedy, would be proper or useful, either to the patient or homœopathy. The particular condition of the system, in which palliation would not prove positively injurious, is a matter of as nice a consideration, and involves a conclusion nearly as difficult to be arrived at, as



the choice of a remedy homœopathically adapted to the case under consideration.

In conclusion, your committee will state that he believes the interests of homœopathy will advance just in proportion as the law developed by Hahnemann, of applying remedies, is adhered to, and consequently it will be retarded in the degree that the latitude of all methods is allowed. The truth is as much in force in medicine, as it is in religion, that "*we cannot serve two masters.*" And we believe it a very mistaken idea that the spread of Homœopathy will be promoted by ceding some of its ground to Allopathy. Homœopathy will seldom commend itself to any one in this age, by reasoning *a priori*, for the human mind is so deeply immersed in mere materialism that it is difficult to entertain an idea of power aside from weight and measurement. By its fruits Homœopathy is to be known; and certainly no one can use it so successfully as he who gives it his undivided attention. He who attempts to unite it with aught else will be always below mediocrity. True, he may acquire a kind of mushroom notoriety, but it cannot withstand the advances of truth. Every one who prescribes a remedy, should do so with a religious observance of the homœopathic law of cure; and he who wilfully evades it, for the purpose of accomplishing some selfish end, should be regarded with distrust.

As to the doses used, one must be governed in general, by the general experience of the profession; and, in particular, by his own individual observation. If most successful with the *mother tinctures*, they should be used, by all means: if more successful, however, with the 2000th attenuation, the same liberty should be allowed. The absence of a perceptible perturbation of the disease, after the administration of a drug, is no evidence of the want of a true restorative power. The declaration of Holy Writ may be borne in mind, which is equally true here, that, *God is not in the wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire, but in the still small voice.*

The preceding paper, by Dr. Payne, was read to the Institute in the absence of its author, and accepted. It was re-committed, "to be condensed for publication," but was not received in time to appear in the published proceedings of the Institute; and at our solicitation Dr. P. permits its publication in this Journal.

## PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ASIATIC CHOLERA.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 20th, 1848, the New York Homœopathic Dispensary Association celebrated its First Anniversary. Dr. Joslin delivered an Address on Cholera. The following is that part of it which relates to the prevention and treatment of that disease:

"*Prophylactics.*—The Homœopathic *preventives* of Cholera are *Cuprum metallicum*—that is, metallic copper—and *Veratrum album*, or white hellebore, prepared according to the Homœopathic method, and taken in doses alternately of two or three pellets, once or twice a week. By this means, thousands have been protected from the disease. It is said there is no instance in which persons thus treated, have been attacked with Cholera. The globules may be placed on the tongue and allowed to dissolve in the mouth, and then be swallowed. Whenever it is practicable, it would be well to consult a Homœopathic physician, as one of these remedies would be preferable to the other. He could decide which.

The method which Hahnemann recommended and which many employed with success, was to take globules medicated with the 30th dilution of *Cuprum*, then wait one week and take the similarly medicated globules of the 30th of *Veratrum*; then, after a week, the *Cuprum*, and so on. Others have used with similar success, the 3d dilution of each, at intervals of half a week. This may be used by those who cannot obtain the 30th: but let no one venture upon the use of the copper of the drug-stores, nor the crude colored tincture of *Veratrum*; even of the Homœopathic Pharmacies. Camphor is too transient in its action, to be of any use as a prophylactic. Besides it would interfere with other medicines.

*Treatment of Premonitory Symptoms.*—During the prevalence of Cholera in a place, every person should consult his physician for such slight symptoms as often precede Cholera. By so doing, an attack may almost always be prevented, if the physician is a Homœopath. The most usual premonitory symptom is a slight diarrhœa, which would cause no apprehension in ordinary times. This is generally cured by a single dose of *Phosphorus*, or *Phosphoric acid* given in the mode which I shall describe under the first variety of Cholera.

*Cholorina.*—When this diarrhœa is a little more marked, and but few other symptoms are present, the case is usually named Cholorina. This case is intermediate between that of premonitory symptoms and that of the fully formed Cholera of the first variety to be described. It requires similar treatment, and especially *Phosphorous* or *Phosphoric acid*.

*Treatment of the First Stage of Cholera in all its Forms.*—When there is a decided attack of Cholera, we resort, for the first hour—or a longer or shorter time, according to circum-



stances—to a treatment for which—as well as for all the most successful modes of preventing and curing this disease—the world is indebted to Hahnemann. Whatever may be the form of the attack, give one drop of the tincture of camphor, dropped on a lump of sugar, and then dissolved in a table-spoonful of cold water. Repeat this every five minutes until there is a decided mitigation of the symptoms. This will usually be after five or six doses. One sign of its good effects is perspiration. In proportion as the symptoms yield, let the doses be at longer intervals—as an hour, two hours, twelve or even twenty-four hours. If the disease is taken in time, ten or twelve doses are ordinarily sufficient. If the stomach will not retain the camphor, even in ice-water, then give, before and after it, a bit of ice as large as a filbert. Families should be provided with the camphor, and, in case of attack, administer it immediately, before the arrival of the physician, who will judge whether it is to be continued.

There is abundant evidence of the efficacy of this camphor treatment, from all parts of Europe. Hahnemann states that at Berlin and Magdeburg alone, thousands of families have followed his instructions respecting the treatment by Camphor, restored those of their members who were attacked by the epidemic—restored them often in less than a quarter of an hour. Dr. Quinn assures us that this method may be employed with certainty of success, in the first hour, and with probability of success in the following hours. Use no external applications in any stage. Hahnemann at first advised the external, in connection with the internal use of Camphor, but subsequently found it unnecessary. Indeed, it not only is useless, but fills the room with effluvia which may interfere with the subsequent treatment.

I shall next consider the *Treatment of Fully Developed Cholera in all its stages*; dividing it into those varieties usually presented. The Homœopathic physician will know how to adapt his treatment to different shades and combinations of these varieties. He will apply the *Materia Medica* and the law of *similia similibus curantur*.

1st variety *Cholera Diarrhæica*; Intestinal or *Diarrhæic Cholera*. The most frequent form of Cholera is that in which diarrhœa is an early and prominent symptom. At first, there is a simple diarrhœa, or one preceded by headache. There is pain in the neck and arms; lassitude in the legs; rumblings, tongue moist, a little coated, sometimes pasty. The evacuations at first composed of fecal matters, shortly become yellowish, greenish or watery, sometimes red; afterward they have the appearance of barley water, rice water, or of whey with little flocks of snow distributed through it. Each stool is preceded by great noise and movements in the intestines. There may be a livid circle around the eyes, failure of strength, and nausea; sometimes in a more advanced stage, vomiting and spasms. If this form of Cholera is mistaken for an ordinary diarrhœa, and improperly treated, we have to

apprehend the stage of collapse, (hereafter to be described,) in which the cure is difficult. But taken in season, this diarrhœic form of Cholera is easy to cure.

*Treatment*.—If *Camphor* does not soon give relief, we are to resort to *Phosphorus* or to *Phosphoric Acid*. Dr. Quinn has employed both with equal success. The *Phosphoric Acid* is to be preferred when there is a gluey matter on the tongue. (In some cases *Veratrum*, *Chamomilla*, *Mercurius* or *Secale* may be indicated. However, *Phosphorus* and *Phosphoric Acid* rarely fail to cure; and some high authorities are in favor of giving one of them, at first, in preference to the administration of Camphor in this form of Cholera. Put two or three globules of the 30th attenuation of *Phosphorus*, or of the 3d attenuation of *Phosphoric Acid* in a little sugar of milk, and place them on the patient's tongue. One dose is generally sufficient to effect a cure. Dr. Quinn rarely found it necessary to give a second dose, and never until the following day.

If in this or any other variety of Cholera there is severe burning in any part of the alimentary canal, with violent colic and great weakness or restlessness, give *Arsenicum Album*, 30th attenuation. If the colic proves obstinate give an enema of ice-water. For *Arsenicum* and every other medicine, except camphor, the proper interval between the doses is about one hour, or from half an hour to an hour and a half, according to the circumstances. The doses may always be two or three globules, and in case of most medicines the 30th attenuation. *Camphor* is to be given in doses of one drop of the strongest tincture of the shops, or two of the weakest, repeated every five minutes, for it is unlike all other medicines, in not requiring attenuation, and in being exceedingly transient in its action. Again, as it is one of the most powerful and general antidotes to other medicines, the patient must not take these from any spoon or glass which has recently contained it, nor must the odor of it be in the room after he commences other medicines.

The second variety of Cholera to be mentioned (though not the most frequent or dangerous) is *Cholera Gastrica*, or *Gastric Cholera*. It is characterized by continual vomiting, but is often attended by many other symptoms of other varieties. There is no diarrhœa or only one or two evacuations at the onset. The urine is scanty. When the epidemic prevails, this form may be excited by flatulent vegetables or other indigestible food.

*Treatment*.—The remedies are generally *Ipecacuanha* or *Veratrum*, sometimes *Nux Vomica*. *Camphor* is to be given at the onset. Put two or three globules of the third of *Ipecac* in a little sugar of milk, and place them on the tongue. This may be repeated, if necessary, in half an hour, an hour or an hour and a half. If by the effect of the *Ipecac* the vomiting ceases, but the other symptoms remain, and there is great weight at the stomach and pains in the intestines and head, then have recourse to *Nux Vomica*, 30th attenuation, two or three globules. But if the disease



is not checked, give *Veratrum*, or other medicines, according to the indications. To Cholera excited by anger, and attended with either vomiting or diarrhœa, the 12th attenuation of *Chamomilla* is appropriate.

*Third Variety—Cholera Spasmodica, or Spasmodic Cholera.*—This form is especially characterized by *cramps* and *spasmodic* movements. The principal symptoms are contractions and cramps in the toes and fingers; afterward convulsive movements in the muscles of the fore arm and legs; then spasms in the upper arms and thighs, and sometimes fixed spasms in the chest and neck. The constriction of the chest is preceded by vomiting. Neither vomiting nor diarrhœa frequently occur in this; but there is often pain, weight and tenderness at the pit of the stomach.

*Treatment.*—The remedies are Camphor, *Cuprum Metallicum*, and *Veratrum*. If Camphor has not relieved, give *Cuprum*, the 30th attenuation, two or three globules, and repeat it many times, at intervals of half an hour or an hour, if its salutary effect is not manifested. If necessary, then give *Veratrum* in repeated doses, or other medicines, according to the indications.

The *Fourth Variety* is *Cholera siccæ*, or *Dry Cholera*.—There is no diarrhœa or vomiting. There is a sudden prostration of the vital powers; the urine is suppressed; tongue sometimes blue or blackish; the eyes up-turned and fixed; coldness of the surface of the whole body, which becomes covered with a cold, sticky sweat; the face and limbs have a violet blue color. The voice and pulse fail. This variety requires the most prompt attention.

*Treatment.*—The first remedy—as in other varieties of Cholera—is *Camphor*. In this variety, it is especially required for arousing the nervous system. Repeat it every five minutes; then, if necessary, give *Veratrum* every half hour, hour, or hour and a half. If the cramps and vomitings have ceased, if the patient is cold, blue and pulseless, i. e., collapsed, *Carbo vegetabilis*, 30th attenuation, two or three globules. In this state of complete Asphyxia, some recommend Hydrocyanic Acid, 3d attenuation, every hour or two. We recognise the effect of these medicines by the pulsations becoming visible, and some by the return of the cramps, vomitings or diarrhœa—symptoms which are then to be treated by *Veratrum* or *Cuprum* or some other remedy, according to the indication.

The *Fifth Variety—Cholera Acuta, or Acute Cholera.*—This variety we might call *Cerebral*, as the brain, in the first stage, seems to be oppressed. Yet, in its course, it simulates the form of some other varieties, and, like them, unless checked, ends in Asphyxia and death. The patient, at first, feels as if he were stunned or has a sensation of weight in the head, or *vertigo*; oppression of the chest; numbness of the arms and legs; afterward there are rumblings in the intestines; heat of the body; pulse rapid and feeble; nausea, retching or vomiting; bilious or watery diarrhœa; suppression of urine; tongue cold, voice altered; face yellowish, with a dark blue circle around the eyes;

prostration; spasms, at first in the feet and hands, afterwards extending to the arms and legs, which become dark blue, and cold; the eyes tarnished and sunk in their orbits. The diarrhœa and cramps cease, and the disease in its later stage runs into the form of dry Cholera, characterized by cold sweats, insensible pulse and general blueness—in short, by collapse.

*Treatment.*—Give *Veratrum*, at first the 12th, and after two or three doses, the 30th, in the quantity and at the intervals as before described.

Lastly, in some rare instances, the Cholera is, from the commencement, an *inflammatory* and *febrile* disease. Then, as soon as the vomiting is checked, use *Aconitum*, the 24th. Afterward use *Bryonia*, 30th; *Rhus Radicans*, 30th; or other medicines, according to circumstances. The indications, as in all other complicated cases of Cholera, can be properly understood only by a Homœopathic physician.

A dangerous inflammatory or febrile condition, frequently follows Cholera proper, when treated allopathically. Then use *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, or *Rhus Rhadicans*, or other medicines, according to the indications. *Belladonna* stands highest for inflammation of the brain, and *Rhus Radicans* for the Typhus Fever.

Where a Homœopathic physician is called to any case of Cholera which has been under *Allopathic* treatment, he is first to antidote the former treatment by *camphor*. Give it but a short time, if there is any inflammation. He can judge if other antidotes are necessary, as they frequently will be, in the course of the treatment; for calomel and other crude drugs, and even the undiluted colored tincture of the Homœopathic shops, are so durable in their mischievous action as to require for their correction something more durable in its curative action than camphor. I will add, that we have accounts from St. Petersburg and Riga of the same success in the Homœopathic treatment of the Cholera of 1848, which distinguished that treatment in former years. Among other remedies they have used *Camphor*, *Veratrum*, *Secale*, *Phosphoric Acid*, *Hydrocyanic Acid*, and *Jatoropha curcas*. *Veratrum* has gained great renown, even among the Allopathists themselves."

For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

MR. EDITOR:—A short critique in your last issue just come to hand, upon the Milwaukee Homœopathic Reporter, makes us desirous of saying a few words through your Journal, in explanation.

We found ourselves, two in number, in this city, surrounded by about fifty allopathic physicians and an almost universal ignorance in the community, of the principles and practice of Homœopathy—an ignorance industriously cherished and increased by the constant misrepresentations of our allopathic

brethren. Well knowing that our glorious science is approved and adopted in exact proportion as it is correctly understood, we commenced our monthly sheet with the view of extending through this community, a knowledge of the principles and practice of Homœopathy. In doing this, we considered ourselves co-operating with the professed object of all Homœopathic physicians and associations. The successive numbers have been almost exclusively occupied with a connected series of editorial articles containing a plain popular exposition of the *principles* of our science, contrasted with the imperfections, errors and dangers of Allopathy, with one page exhibiting the results of our *practice*. The fruits of this course have been very visible. We venture the opinion that there is not another city in the Union in which Homœopathy has gained as great an ascendancy as in this, in so short a time. And it is not from any peculiarity in the character of our population, nor from any peculiar skill or tact on the part of those who have represented our principles and practice here, but from the simple fact that there is not another city in which so large a portion of the population have become so soon correctly informed upon the subject.

We have not aimed or professed to instruct the profession. We have sent our sheet to some of our professional brethren: 1st. To give them some notion of what Homœopathy was doing in this distant region of the West; 2d. To inform them what were the diseases which prevailed here, and in what relative proportions, accurately stated in tabular form; 3rd. To give them some idea of the success of the Homœopathic treatment in these diseases of the West. Many of our brethren at a distance have expressed to us the interest they feel in these items of information.

That this course should be termed "selfish," and our little unpretending sheet be regarded as "intended as much as a medium for advertising the Editors as any thing else," we feel to be unjust. We believe that if our brethren in other places had pursued the same course in precisely the same way, Homœopathy would now have been much in advance of its present position, simply because the community would have been much better informed upon the subject.

We are unable to see why "statistical tables of private practice never had any weight and never should have any," unless it be

equally true of "statistical tables" of Hospital and Infirmary "practice." The value of "weight" of both depend entirely upon their truthfulness, and if both are true and faithful records, they are both valuable, and "ought" to have "weight." For example, if a monthly table for a year shows a hundred cases of acute bronchitis and pneumonia, without the loss of a patient, in a place where every month witnesses a multitude of deaths from the same diseases under Allopathic treatment, this is a fact of importance, and should have weight. So we think.

We do not exactly understand your standard of selfishness. Our last No. before your critique, was almost wholly occupied with a local matter, viz.: the transactions of the Allopathic Association of this city; and, yet you think it more "unselfish" than its predecessors, which were occupied with an exposition of Homœopathic principles.

But we thank you for the criticism, and will try to profit by it. Entertaining the kind feelings you express, permit us to reciprocate the favor, by making a suggestion in relation to the Journal.

In aiming to make it both a professional and popular Journal, there is an attempt to reconcile incompatibles. The wants of the profession are so much above those of the non-professional public, that they cannot both be benefited, to any considerable extent, by the same reading. If either aspect of the Journal were omitted altogether, and the other exclusively maintained, it would be more useful.

Hoping that the "talents" of the Editors of both Journals will be "exerted in the right direction to spread a knowledge of Homœopathy in an unexceptionable manner, through the columns of their Journals," we remain fraternally, yours in the common cause of truth and science.

TRACY & DOUGLASS.

#### DR. JOSLIN ON ASIATIC CHOLERA.

Of the admirable Lecture by Dr. Joslin on Cholera, which we listened to with so much pleasure and instruction, we have given but an imperfect abstract. We are very happy to have it in our power to inform the profession that there will be shortly published a work by Dr. Joslin on the *Asiatic Cholera*, in which the following topics will be embraced: viz. The nature and propagation of Asiatic Cholera; the question of its contagiousness; its



prevention; the symptoms and the professional treatment of its different stages and varieties; the domestic treatment which may be necessary at the onset; the relative success of different methods of treatment, and the proofs of the great success of Homœopathia in this disease. The book will contain a Repertory of the symptoms of this disease in all parts of the body; the symptoms being so arranged and combined as to facilitate the selection of the remedy in any particular case, and the remedies marked according to their relative values in Asiatic Cholera. The above analysis of the contents of the forthcoming work, it is apparent it should be in the hands of every Physician.

At a meeting of the Physicians of the New York Homœopathic Dispensary Association, held at the Dispensary Rooms, 57 Bond-st., on the 19th inst. the following resolution was adopted:

Inasmuch as contradictory reports are in circulation respecting the disease now prevailing at the Quarantine, therefore,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Kirby be requested to visit the Quarantine Hospital and report the facts in relation to this disease.

At an adjourned meeting held last evening, 26th inst., the following report was received and ordered to be published.

B. F. BOWERS, Secy.  
New York, Dec. 27, 1848.

*To the Physicians of the New York Homœopathic Dispensary.*

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with your request, I this afternoon, in company with my friend Dr. Snow and Mr. Theodore Kirby, a Student of Medicine, visited the hospital at the Quarantine, Staten Island. We were received in the most polite manner by Dr. Whiting, the Health Officer, who showed us a number of patients, and willingly gave all the information in his power in reference to the object of our visit.

Asiatic Cholera may be known by what is termed rice-water dejections, cold breath, cold tongue, and a corrugated appearance of the skin of the fingers, as if they had been long in water. As these symptoms do not appear together in any other disease, they should be regarded as *diagnostic*. The other symptoms are more or less common to other diseases.—The above characteristic symptoms were pre-

sent in the cases at Quarantine, and I have no doubt that the disease is Asiatic Cholera.

The disease in question was brought to this port by the ship New York; most of the passengers in this ship were poor German laborers from about *Havre*; the rest were French of a better class. The first case occurred after the vessel had been fifteen days at sea, and no Cholera existed in the port whence she sailed.

During the voyage of the ship and since her arrival, the disease has been confined to the Germans. It afterward attacked inmates of the hospitals who were convalescent of other diseases, especially typhus fever; it did not attack all persons who were in constant communication with the sick in the same Ward and Hospital, while it did pass to a distant Hospital with which there had been no communication whatever. No physician, no nurse, no person in ordinary health in or about the Hospitals have had any sickness resembling Cholera. These are the facts. As in 1832, so it is now, mostly confined to unsound constitutions.

The distinction sought to be made between contagion and infection, in my opinion, is unimportant. The word contagion covers the whole ground. The Small-pox is a clear example of *contagious* disease. Influenza is an example of *epidemic* disease. From the above facts the disease, as it now prevails at Quarantine, is not like either. It seems to be developed endemically, that is, it prevails in a particular locality, and among a certain class of persons. There is no evidence of this disease having occurred under other than the circumstances above stated.

Respectfully, S. R. KIRBY, M. D.  
762 Broadway, Tuesday Evn'g, Dec. 26, 1848.

#### CALCINED MAGNESIA IN POISONING BY ARSENIC. BY DR. BISSEL.

DR. BISSEL was called to a strong laboring man æt. 27, who had swallowed about a scruple of arsenic between two and three hours before. He procured free vomiting without any relief, the patient manifesting all the signs of arsenical poisoning in an advanced degree.—Believing that further attempts at evacuation were useless, he determined to try the effect of calcined magnesia, which has been recently given with success in these cases. He ordered a drachm every hour in milk and water, with the effect of speedily abating the violence of the sufferings of the patient, and of ultimately entirely relieving him. Moderate action of the bowels followed the use of the remedy.—*Amer. Journal Medical Science*, v. xvi., p. 121.

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the 'AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY,' may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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NO. 10.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1849.

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## THE PROGRESSION OF HOMŒOPATHIA.

We could make up the whole of this Journal with authentic communications, of the progress of Homœopathia in this country. We can find room at this time, for only an abridgement of a few of them.

Dr. E. M. Bartlett of Louisiana, Missouri, writes "homœopathia is gaining ground rapidly in the west. Allopaths say, it is a humbug, but the people in this place declare 'they had rather be humbugged *well* than physicked sick.'"

A gentleman, not of the profession, writes us from Hagerstown, Md. "It (homœopathia) is quite an up-hill business here, on account of the hold the allopaths have upon the affections of the *mass*; but that is giving away daily, especially amongst the higher order of society."

Dr. George E. Shipman, of Chicago, Ill.

writes: The truth (homœopathia) is gaining many adherents in this Western Valley. Our citizens think and act for themselves. They are tired of being drugged to death; and many of the physicians are tired of being executioners, and from both classes the inquiry is increasing: "What help for us is there in homœopathia?" "There are many good openings out here for physicians of our school. I am sure I could point twenty to locations where they could do well. If you know any thoroughly educated men of good morals, who are desirous of settling, I should be happy to correspond with them, and give them information. But recommend none but the best, we have poor ones enough, here now, who are a disgrace to homœopathia, and no credit to themselves."

Dr. Daniel Holt, of Lowell, Mass., writes: "The homœopathic principle and medical practice based upon it, is making progress in all parts of New England. Nearly three years since I was admitted a member of the Massachusetts's Homœopathic Fraternity, for Boston and vicinity; it numbered then, I think, 15 or 18, it has now about 40 members. It is looked upon in this place, (Lowell,) very differently from what it was three years since, both in and out of the profession. It is in much more favor. C. S. Mann, M. D. of Lowell, Secretary of the Middlesex District Medical Society [Allopathic] and its *Orator* for the last year, has hoisted the flag of homœopathia. We have had much Dysentery and Typhus fever here for two years past, and homœopathia has not disappointed our expectations; but has triumphantly sustained the principle and the practice."

Dr. H. Robinson of Auburn, New York writes: "Homœopathia has a firm hold here, which cannot be broken by any of the Allopaths in this section of our country. It has stood the storm of their malignity for the last

eight years. The most influential and enlightened part of the people will have no other practice. This is a peculiarity wherever it has been introduced.

Dayton, O, Dec. 1848.

Doct. S. R. KIRBY,

Sir: Enclosed I remit to you One Dollar for the present volume of your valuable Journal. Spreading and teaching, as it does, the homœopathic principles in their purity, as taught by our great masters, it is, I assure you, a welcome visitor.

It is amusing to see how our opponents struggle to save their routine practice from an eternal death; they steal from homœopathy, and then assert that all these things have been discovered and used by physicians of their own school, many years ago. But, they struggle in vain. People cannot be deceived; they have long ago lost all confidence in Allopathic practice; they exclaim with Shakspeare, "throw physic to the dogs, I'll none of it!" and welcome homœopathy with a hearty support.

The progress of homœopathy in the West, is the most rapid ever witnessed since its discovery. Homœopathic physicians are asked for in every little town. The consequence is, that a great many old school physicians take up the practice of Homœopathy without knowing anything about it. This I know is bad, but cannot be avoided until medical students, who study in the Eastern cities, understand their interest, and make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the practice of homœopathy, instead of sitting in the Lecture Rooms sleeping, when attending those dry lectures on the allopathic materia medica and therapeutics. Let those young men come as *good* homœopaths to the West or South, and I assure you, they will find a profitable practice, when as allopathic physicians, they can hardly make a living. People here understand as well as the most learned medical Professors in Boston or New York, how to prescribe, and how to take an emetic, a cathartic, a dose of Quinine, or a *precious* Blue Pill; and it is only the ignorant class, having no opportunity to read, that will continue for some time yet to swallow such trash.

It is about 14 months since I commenced the practice of homœopathy in this city.— There were then about 15 or 25 families who would employ a homœopathic physician; now there are over 175 in favor of homœopathy. One allopathic physician, who has practised for many years in this place, has, by his own study and investigation become a convert.— Two others are prescribing homœopathic medicines, occasionally. I know a dozen of cases of fever and ague which had been treated unsuccessfully by allopathic physicians for weeks, and which were cured homœopathically in two days. In no disease do homœopathic remedies have a more quick and charming effect, than in intermittent fevers. I have treated this year over 125 cases, most all of which, had been under allopathic treat-

ment previously, and only in a few cases patients were obliged to call for a second or third prescription. An iron merchant of this city, who was under allopathic treatment for five months, and who took the Quinine by teaspoonsful, "in order to get rid of those awkward chills or die," as he said; was cured by Puls. and Ipecac. in five days. If time would permit, I could relate to you many an interesting case, but, I have devoted more time already to this disjointed letter than I first intended. In conclusion, I will remark: that *Ipecac.*, *Puls.*, *Nux vom.*, and *Carbo veg.*, and in some cases, *Lac.*, *Ars.*, and *Sulphur*, in the third potencies, and repeated at 4, 6, to 12 hour's intervals, provided the symptoms indicate the one or the other of these remedies—are the principal ones for the cure of fever and ague. *Carbo veg.*, is the never failing remedy in those cases in which exist much thirst during the cold, and none during the hot stage.

Measles, Dysentery, and Scarlet Fever, which have been prevailing here endemically this year, were treated very successfully by homœopathy, while under allopathic treatment, 2 or 3 deaths occurred daily.

Wishing you health and prosperity, I am your's truly and sincerely,

H. WIGAND, M. D.

P. S. I do not wish to have this letter published in the Journal (being a poor English scholar) except you are convinced its publication will be of some service to the good cause. In that case you will please correct mistakes.

Dr. A. O. Blair of Newark, Ohio, in a letter to us, says: "I have been a practitioner of medicine for twenty years; for the last two years, I have practised what the immortal Hahnemann very properly termed the 'Divine Healing Art.' But you can have no conception of the persecutions I have suffered from my professional brethren. But I have triumphed, and now live in peace. We have had a year of epidemics; and this has afforded an opportunity to test the merits of the two systems, if allopathy can be called a system.

*Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas*, have prevailed in severe forms. These were successfully treated homœopathically. Our school of medicine is progressing in Ohio. I am doing a large business, and it is increasing rapidly. *Similia similibus curantur*, is true, and must finally prevail.

Nashville, Tennessee, Dec. 14th, 1848.

Dr. KIRBY,

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is Two Dollars, for which you will please send the 2d and 3d volumes of the American Journal of Homœopathy.

You will perceive by the date of my letter, that I have located in Nashville, and find nothing known of homœopathy in Tennessee.



Myself and partner being the only homœopaths in this state. However discouraging the prospect may be at first sight, knowing that we have truth on our side, we must prevail, and ultimately establish the doctrines of Hahnemann in this State. At the time I commenced business in Detroit, an opinion prevailed at the East, that homœopathy was inefficient in the fevers of Michigan and the West. This opinion my experience proved unfounded, as the diseases of that climate are readily controlled by our remedies. The above opinion is held by many to apply with still greater force to the diseases of the South and Southwest; that it is wholly without foundation is proven by the fact, that homœopathy is practised with great success in several places in Alabama and Mississippi as well as in most of the Southern States to a limited extent.

I trust you will enlighten the public at this present crisis on the subject of Asiatic Cholera. And permit me likewise to call your attention to another matter, which more especially interests the profession; I allude to the present standing of homœopathy. Have you the statistics to show the *present* number of homœopathic physicians in the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent, together with the number of Journals, Hospitals, and in fact the absolute standing of homœopathy in the above countries, and throughout the world. If you have such information that is tangible, you would confer the greatest favor on the profession at the West, by making it public through the columns of your Journal.

I remain respectfully,

Yours,

P. M. WHEATON, M. D.

We will endeavor to devise means to obtain the statistical information, mentioned by Dr. Wheaton. We propose, as the present volume of the Journal is drawing to a close, that when the amount of subscription for the 4th volume is remitted, that each Physician will make known to us the name and residence of every practitioner of homœopathia of whom he has knowledge. By this mode, we may be able to secure a correct list of all the practitioners of our school in this country.

Dr. J. S. Putnam of York, Maine, writes: "The first number of your Journal was sent to me, two and a half years since, and for the first time, my attention was drawn to homœopathy; at that time, and for twenty years I had been a practitioner of medicine. But the principle of *similia similibus curantur* struck me as one that might easily be tested, and its truth or fallacy be confirmed. The "Organon" (*Hahnemann's*) established me in the faith, and you may set me down as a disciple of *Hahnemann*, and the only one within a circuit of thirty miles embracing 60,000 in-

habitants and about fifty physicians, besides some thirty or forty mongrels; and the shops in the villages filled with any amount of nostrums, pills, panaceas, catholicons, &c. I am as in a desert with "a glimmer of light amid surrounding gloom."

Randolph, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y.,  
Dec. 8th, 1848.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed I send you One Dollar for the Journal of homœopathy; another year I will endeavor to be punctual. It is now some ten months since I began the practice of our noble art, in this place; and although there has been little sickness in this region, in that time; yet enough has been seen by a good number of families to endear these, to them, a new science of medication. A majority of the cases at first applying, were of a chronic character; and by accident they came upon my hands. A case of pneumonia which, for two weeks previously to my seeing it, had been under the old school treatment. From the length of time the inflammation had continued, and the consequent hepatization of the left lung; the Council of Doctors, seven in number, feared that an abscess would occur, and the patient be carried away with galloping consumption. I began the treatment; an abscess did form; the system was prepared for the shock; and three months subsequently, the patient was ten lbs. heavier than one year before. The *result* of this case created some confidence in the *availability* of our new art. Thus by degrees it is spreading, and many, even now, will have no other. I had one other case, which I will narrate, of a different nature and in a different subject, and one, our allopathic friends, can *imagine* to be a *clear* case of *cure*. It was not diet, and imagination, as there was no essential change of regimen; nor was it *fancy*, for the patient was *quite young*. Aug. 6th and 7th, was called to see the infant son of the Rev. Mr. Hall, Missionary to the All-gany Indians. I found the little sufferer in a truly deplorable condition. Upon inquiry I learned that one year previous, it had, suddenly, been attacked with an inflammatory disease of the face, apparently of an erysipelatous nature. Prior to this, the child had been treated for worms with drug doses of Spigelia; excepting occasional attacks of this nature, the child was considered well. But now began, the rational,—so called heroic treatment of this *boasted, two thousand*, and over, years old school, with the infant of two years. I am not able from memory to give the whole history of the early management of this case; but suffice it to say the inflammation was not subdued. In a little time it had spread and involved both eyes. Soon, there began to appear opacity of the corner of the right eye, and three ulcers on that of the left; Blisters, Mercury, &c., &c., were used with no apparent benefit. Subsequently it took Six Bottles of Sarsaparilla Extract, and rather improved in general health; but

no other change; the local disease remained unchanged. Some three weeks before I saw the patient, as the ulcers were spreading and the left eye had become *totally blind*, it was resolved upon, by the Doctors in council to make use of the *Arg. Nit.*, locally, as a last means of stopping, if possible, the ravages of this hitherto intractable disease. Two or three weeks of anxious suspense passed on, and still no change for the better. Then it was as a final resort, in hopes that something might yet be done, that I was sent for. There were then three ulcers on the corner of the left eye with opacity of the sight; the child takes cold easily, when it is always worse. There is great dread of light and it is necessary to keep the room darkened; at times the child wishes to hide its face in its mother's lap. There was an acrid discharge from the eyes, running down and corroding the cheek. The eyes were red and full; the face also red and bloated; bowels at that time pretty regular. The blisters left deep sores which healed very slowly. Prescription—*Hepar* 6, night and morning for two days. In eight days *Lyco*. 18, night and morning. At the end of three weeks saw patient; was *much improved*, and now perhaps I erred in changing the remedies, but my next prescription was *Sulph.* 12, two mornings. In eight days saw patient, was *much worse, nothing new*, the whole symptoms were *aggravated*. I immediately resolved to give the first remedy again but in a higher attenuation, and so prescribed *Hepar* 18, night and morning, and in eight days *Lyco*. 18 in same way. There was no change until after the *Lyco*, when it began rapidly to gain, and continued gaining for six weeks. At the end of this time it could bear the light, the inflammation was gone entirely, could run out without taking cold, and appeared according to Mr. Hall's opinion, entirely well. On examination, the ulcers were diminished full one half, as also the opacity, and more gratifying than all, the *sight* of left eye was restored *perfectly*. One week after, when Mr. H. called, giving the above information, there was beginning to appear a little redness of one eye, and he said he thought the child *had got out* from under the influence of medicine, and said he thought that if the child had one more dose of the appropriate remedy, it would perfectly cure it. Now here, to my mind, was a philosophical deduction, from past observation; and although I have not since heard from, or seen the patient, yet, I have no doubt, of its ultimate, perfect and permanent cure. I have thus, very imperfectly, sketched to you this interesting case. Now the question arises what produced the results? One Doctor says, *Diet!* another, *imagination!* and a third will have it, it would have got well without any treatment! If without any treatment, why not have left it alone, saved much misery; and cured in this safe, pleasant, and easy way? But *why* did the patient *improve* under one kind of medicine, while under *another*, it *grew worse*? Similar effect from diet, and the same potent chain from imagination. Perhaps our brethren of the old school can divine. Alas! who is *credulous*?

they who believe what they see, or they who seeing, resist the clear evidences of their own senses. But I have written more, it may be, than you will have patience to read, and will close the present communication, by wishing you, the best of success and prosperity, in the dissemination of a knowledge of our most noble and glorious art.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

E. G. COOK, M. D.

To S. R. Kirby, M. D.

In this way, we shall continue to post up information, as it comes to us from the different sections of our country. We have other letters from Physicians which we shall lay before our readers. We feel, that we are now, fairly getting into the work of a reform in the healing art. There is yet much to be accomplished. The best interests of the human race are involved in the propagation of the science and art of homœopathia. Baseless theories in medicine, will no longer be endured by intelligent persons. And allopathic practice is daily exhibiting its incompetency to cure diseases; and also its pernicious effects on human health and life.

#### HARMONY OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL.

Enemies of our science and art, have endeavored to make it appear, that the harmony of the homœopathic school, has been disturbed in this country, on account of the different dilutions of medicines. In this city, and for aught we know, in other places also, the terms "low dilutionists," and "high dilutionists," have been used to designate practitioners of our art, and thereby the attempt has been made to indicate an essential difference among them. It seems necessary, that the true issue should be distinctly stated.

It is inconsistent with reason, or the plain dictates of common sense, to make the various dilutions of medicines the occasion of differences among genuine practitioners of homœopathia. He who has had experience in the high dilutions of medicines, should not denounce him who has had experience only in the low dilutions. Good sense would dictate, that they should say to each other, in accordance with their conviction of the most useful; "I show you a more excellent way." After years of reflection on this subject, we do not perceive that homœopathic physicians can reasonably pursue any other course in a matter of this kind.



About two years ago, an occurrence took place in this city; which, those unacquainted with the facts, may have construed into essential differences among homœopathists. In 1841, "The New York Homœopathic Physician's Society" was formed; which embraced all, or nearly so, those physicians in the city and vicinity who made any pretensions to the practice of homœopathia. In November, 1846, fourteen members of that society, saw fit to withdraw from it, and did so, by the following communication addressed to its President: viz:—

"Sir:—In November, 1841, the New York Homœopathic Physicians' Society was formed. Its object—'the improvement of its members in the science and practice of Homœopathic Medicine.'

"Believing the principle '*Similia similibus curantur*,' to be the true law of healing: believing that the processes of dilution, trituration, and succussion, are important means of developing the therapeutic power of the crude drug; believing that blood-letting, blistering, vomiting, and purging, and all antipathic and revulsive measures in disease, properly so called, are less safe and efficacious than Homœopathic treatment—we joined the society to carry out and sustain these views.

"To the great scandal and detriment of the Homœopathic art, it has been currently reported, that some professed Homœopathic practitioners in this city are in the frequent practice of bleeding, blistering, and giving cathartics. To correct this state of things, so pernicious to the best interest of the science, of the members, and of the public, it was—without any concerted action—moved in the society to appoint a committee to devise means for protecting Homœopathia against incompetent and pretended Homœopathic practitioners.

"To you, sir, it is known, that a committee was appointed and a report made. Whilst the report was before the Society, and its subject under examination, and before an opportunity was afforded the members to express their opinions with their reasons, all argument was cut off, and all future action effectually prevented, by the passage of a resolution declaring '*That hereafter there shall be no legislation on the science or art of Homœopathy.*' This was carried by a majority which had in caucus framed the resolution, and determined its adoption; and by the aid of men, seldom seen at the stated meetings of the society.

"After mature consideration of the above facts, and with feelings of entire kindness, toward the individual members of the society, we respectfully tender the resignation of our membership."

The above communication clearly sets forth the true ground of difference; and it will be perceived that homœopathia is not involved, only so far, as it stood opposed to al-

lopathia. There cannot be two kinds of homœopathia; but allopathia, can be made to assume various forms, and thereby, may be insinuated into the former; so as, not only to diminish its efficiency, but destroy its influence. Even the name of homœopathia has been assumed by allopathia. Scarcely a day passes, but we meet with the most pernicious forms of the latter, placed to the credit of the former.

Dr. Scott in his Essay, which was published in No. 2 of the present volume of this Journal, very clearly and properly remarked: "That no theory of *disease* can ever lay a definite foundation for practice.

That a theory of *cure* can alone do this.

That until Hahnemann, the labors of physicians were directed principally towards the establishment of a theory of *disease*, and that this is characteristic of medical schools generally, even at the present day.

That the principle of homœopathy, "*similia similibus curantur*," is a theory of *cure* and not of *disease*.

That from this principle of the *science* of medicine arise naturally the general principles of the *practice* of medicine; and therefore, it is by homœopathy alone that the principles and machinery of the science and art of medicine have attained a definite foundation."

Dr. Scott, says also: "It is the characteristic of homœopathy, that it is not a *theory* of *disease* at all, but a *theory* of *cure*, and that it may be applied to practice, whatever theory of disease may happen to be adopted.

A want of a thorough comprehension of the above from Dr. S., is at the foundation of the seeming differences in the homœopathic school. The writings of Rau, Muller, Trinks and others, fully confirm us in this opinion, which, at a future time, we shall attempt to show. All those, so far as we know, who have attempted to divide the school in Europe into parties; and the same thing is now undertaken in this country, have fallen into the egrègious error of the allopathic school, of endeavoring to make a theory of disease, indicate the cure. Such an error, leads to a modified allopathic practice, even at the moment when there may be an honest intention, to practice its opposite—homœopathia.

We have no desire to charge members of the profession with dishonesty; nor, are we disposed to censure those who sincerely differ

from us in opinion; but he who pretends to faith in our art, should not be ignorant of the fact,—that reasoning alone, can never establish any one in the practice of homœopathia. We have never known an instance of a conversion to our science and art by simply reading; experience must accomplish a work of this nature. The preferable dilutions of medicine can be determined only by experience; not in one or a dozen cases, but by the combined experience in every day practice of many of the profession. How absurd it is, for a physician to declare the inefficiency of dilutions of medicine he has never employed. Equally absurd it is, to declare the inadequacy of homœopathia, as a reason, for a resort to allopathia. "I always," said a friend of ours "prescribe homœopathically in the first instance; but if, after a little while, I do not obtain the result I expected, then, I resort to allopathy; but I never do so, until I have tried the former; and to be consistent" said he, "I inform the patient or his friends of the change of treatment." He who pursues such a course of conduct, to be consistent, should state frankly, that he is a mere student of homœopathia—a mere tyro in the practice; and then his influence against our art, would scarcely be felt. Whoever asserts the incompetency of homœopathia, to meet all reasonable expectations in disease, furnishes evidence, that he is an incompetent judge in the premises; and whoever resorts to allopathy in any of its hundred forms, proves that he has not properly studied homœopathia, and should not be regarded as authority.

There is another point which is worth a passing notice, which is; a physician may prescribe for the sick, for years, with an honest intention of doing so homœopathically, and yet he may be utterly destitute of any real experience of the art, from any observations which he may have made.

How can any one pronounce against Hahnemann's practice, who has never followed it? For example, Hahnemann says; give *Mer. viv.* 30th in a single dose, in a certain condition which he describes; wait three days; and if during that period, there arises a slight aggravation, which will happen in most of such cases, do not repeat the remedy; and in two weeks the patient will be well. Now suppose the case to exist as he described it, and the practitioner gives the *Mer. viv.* 30th, but repeats it two, or three, or more times in a day, for two weeks, and fails to cure, and

then infers that Hahnemann was wrong,—would this be a test of his practice?

Yet we have known this very thing to occur. A few years ago we prescribed *Carb. Ammonia* 30th in a single dose, in a case of malignant Scarlet Fever, with prompt effects; the following day, we met a practitioner of a very limited knowledge of homœopathia. He stated a case of Scarlet Fever he was attending, so much like the one we had been consulted in the previous day, that we named the same remedy, and in the same attenuation. This Physician went to a druggist and procured five grains of *Carb. Ammon.* dissolved it in a tumbler half-full of water, and gave two teaspoons-full every hour, and his patient died in about six hours. He said to us afterwards, the medicine you prescribed made the child worse at every dose, and I have lost all confidence in homœopathia; and he has not looked at the subject from that time. This, to be sure, he did not say, was a test of Hahnemann's practice; but he regarded it a test of homœopathia; and we have reason to believe, that there are hundreds who have tested our art similarly for years, both in Europe and in this country; but they call it experience in the practice of Hahnemann.

#### CASE OF ENLARGED OVARIUM AND OVARITIS.

Mrs. M. H. W. aged 30, Temperament nervous and sanguineous. Has had a heavy dragging pain in the left iliac region, during the last ten years, with occasional lancinating pains, aggravated by active exercise, especially at the catamenial period, with pains in the back and loins, more especially on that side, with tumefaction. April 24th, 1848.

In consequence of exposure to cold; decided inflammatory symptoms were developed, with an increase of the pains through the tumor, with tenderness over most of the abdomen; pulse 100 and hard, appetite gone, tongue coated, yellowish white, slight nausea, and constipation.

The acute symptoms yielded in a few days to Aconite, Bryonia and Belladonna.

May 1st.—Tenderness of the abdomen, legs feel very weak, has sharp cutting pains through the tumor. Gave *Ars.* 30.

May 3d.—General improvement, and pains subsided. Tumor feels firm, fibrous of an oblong form, about 4 inches in length and



some 2 1-2 in diameter, and somewhat elastic. Complains of pains in the back and loins, also constipation; gave Nux vom. 30.

May 4th and 5th.—Symptoms improved.

May 6th.—Pains in the back, &c., returned. gave Nux v. 30.

May 8th and 9th.—Improvement.

May 10th.—Feels rather prostrated; took Ars. 30.

May 12th.—General symptoms better, but feels a sensation of throbbing, and occasional flushes of heat and alternate coldness in the tumour; gave Lach. 900, 1 glb.

May 14th.—Has had during the last 36 hours a decided increase of the cutting pains in the tumour.

May 15th.—Pains entirely ceased and feels much better.

May 18th.—Continues to improve.

May 24th.—Pains in the tumor having revived, gave Lycop. 200, 1 glb.

May 26th.—An increase of the pains followed this in a few hours, and continued two days, after which pains subsided and improvement followed.

June 10th.—Size of tumor perceptibly less. Lach. 900, 1 glb.

These remedies were continued in alternation at intervals of two or three weeks, or as often as improvement ceased, with a gradual reduction of the tumor in size, which has entirely disappeared, together with the pains and uneasiness in that part. She has now so far recovered her health that she considers herself well.

L. B. WELLS.

Pompey, N. Y., Dec. 26th, 1848.

#### CASE OF GANGRENA SENILE.

The following is an unquestionable proof of the law "*similia similibus curantur*." Was called July 10th, 1846, to see Mr. S. H. of Lafayette, Onondaga Co., aged 92, temperament sanguine. In the summer of 1845, he had received a slight bruise of the great toe of the left foot, which became irritated, and also gradually gangrenous. A neighboring surgeon was called, who removed the toe, but the disease gradually extended to the whole foot, and the other toes were soon removed. The whole part looks dark, and a fetid, sanious matter discharges from under the integuments; and from an ulcer on the heel. A distinct line is formed about four inches above

the ankle-joint, indicating a separation at no distant period at that point. He lies in a comatose state, is with difficulty aroused to take necessary food and drinks, bowels constipated; gave Nux vom. 6th, at night, 3 evenings in succession.

July 20th.—Is more wakeful, appetite improved, bowels move without enema. Appearance of the foot much the same, offensive discharges continue. Gave Secale Cornut, 6th att., and repeated twice a week.

Aug. 5th.—General appearance of the foot better, and the discharge lessened. Repeated Sec. Corn. once a week.

Aug. 20th.—The ulcer on the heel has healed and the discharges have ceased, and the remaining stump of the foot looks perfectly healthy.

There has been no indication of a return of the disease in that foot. About a year since a similar disease commenced on the great toe of the other foot, but this disappeared after taking a few doses of Secale Cornut.

The old gentleman is now in tolerable good health, is able to sit up, and attend to business affairs. Previous to homœopathic treatment, he had the various allopathic applications usual in such cases, as charcoal, poultices, Tinct. Myrrh, Capsicum, &c., &c. But these did not in the least check the steady progress of the disease.

L. B. WELLS.

Pompey, New York, Dec. 26th, 1848.

#### PERSECUTION FOR NEW IDEAS.

Previously to the 16th century, surgeons had no other means of stemming the flow of blood, after amputations of the limbs for instance; than by scorching over the raw and bleeding wound with a red hot iron, or by plunging it into boiling pitch, or by applying strong potential cauteries to its surface. With laudable efforts to diminish the fearful severities of their practice, they exerted their ingenuity in devising, as it were, refinement upon these necessitous cruelties. Thus Hildamus, the patriarch of German surgery, amputated the limbs of his patients with red-hot knives, in order that he might divide the flesh and sear up the vessels at one and the same time. Upon all these practices, the great and happy suggestion of Ambrose Paré, viz: to shut up the bleeding vessels, by constricting or tying them with slender ligatures, was a vast and

mighty improvement. It at once made the arrestment of hemorrhage in operations far more simple, more certain, and more secure. It saved unmeasurably the sufferings of the patients, while it added to their safety. But the practice was new, and an innovation; and consequently, like all other innovations in medical practice, it was, at first and for a long time, bitterly decried and denounced. The College of Physicians of Paris attacked Paré for his proposed new practice: they attempted, by the authority of the French Parliament, to suppress the publication and dissemination of his observations; and for nearly a century afterwards some of the hospital surgeons of Paris continued, with the characteristic obstinacy of the profession, to prefer cauterising bleeding arteries "with all the ancients," rather than simply tie them "after the manner of a few ignorant and presumptuous murderers. Without reading the books of these old surgeons, it is not possible to imagine the horrors of the cautery, nor how much reason Paré had for upbraiding the surgeons of his own time with their cruelties. The horrors of the patient, and his ungovernable cries, the hurry of the operators and assistants, the sparkling of the heated irons, and the hissing of the blood against them, must have made terrible scenes; and surgery must, in those days, have been a horrible trade. All writers on surgical history give more or less full details upon this opposition to the practice of Paré. So difficult was it to eradicate the blind attachment shown to the ancients, that Theodore Baronius, a professor at Cremona, publicly declared, in 1609, that he would rather err with Galen than follow the advice of any other person.

It is not necessary to expatiate upon the ill treatment which Paré experienced from the base and ignorant Gourmelin, President of the Parisian College of Physicians; nor upon the slowness and reluctance with which the generality of surgeons renounced the cautery for the ligature. Almost 100 years after Paré, a button of vitriol was ordinarily employed in the Hotel Dieu at Paris for the stoppage of hemorrhage after amputations; Dionis was the first French surgeon who taught and recommended Paré's method. This happened towards the close of the 17th century, while Paré lived towards the end of the 16th. Any surgeon, who in the days of Paré, dared to arrest the hemorrhages from his amputation wounds, by applying ligatures instead of red

hot irons, would have been denounced by his compeers.

Harvey, who first discovered the circulation of the blood, was styled vagabond or quack, and persecuted through life.

Paracelsus introduced antimony as a valuable medicine, he was prosecuted for the innovation, and the French parliament passed an act making it penal to prescribe it; whereas it is now one of the most important medicines in daily use.

The Justice of Peru introduced into Protestant England the Peruvian Bark, (invaluable medicine), but being a remedy used by Jesuits, the Protestant English at once rejected the drug as the invention of the devil.

In 1793, Dr. Greenult discovered the curative power of cantharides in dropsy. As soon as his cures began to be noised, he was committed to Newgate by warrant of the President of the College of Physicians for prescribing cantharides internally.

Lady Montague first introduced into England small pox inoculation, having seen its success in Turkey in greatly mitigating that terrible disease. The Faculty all rose in arms against its introduction, foretelling the most disastrous consequence; yet it was in a few years generally adopted by the most eminent members of the profession.

Jenner, who introduced the still greater discovery of vaccination, was treated with ridicule and contempt, persecuted and contemned, persecuted and oppressed by the Royal College of Physicians; yet he subsequently received large grants from government for the benefit he had conferred on his country by making known his valuable discovery; and at the present time its observance is very properly enjoined by the whole medical profession and the legislature.

Hahnemann also, was persecuted for honestly promulgating his doctrines and practice under the name of homœopathy. And although, he demonstrated the truth of his doctrines in the cure of the sick; yet the same unreasonable, and persecuting spirit is kept up by the profession to this day. And, was it not for the intelligence of the people in this country; and the freedom of thought and of action; it would have taken hundreds of years to have placed homœopathia where it now is. It is remarkable that physicians, who claim to be learned, wise, and industrious, should be so exceedingly inconsistent; to refuse to investigate, in the only legitimate



way, that, which, being true, takes rank among the greatest blessings of God to man.

### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The "Domestic Corresponding Secretary" of "The New York Academy" addressed a communication to Judge Noah of the Times. The Judge, might with propriety, have exclaimed:

"You cram these words into mine ears,  
Against the stomach of my sense."

He, however, published the letter, with the following introduction.

"We occupy too large a space in our columns with the following letter from Dr. Roberts relative to a few remarks in our paper of the 30th ult., concerning the hesitancy of the Medical Academy, in coming to a conclusion in relation to the contagious character of cholera. We have no objection to the doctors defending the faculty; but the prolix, verbose and querulous manner in which he takes up the cudgels for his brethren, will be anything but acceptable or useful to them. We have no desire to weaken the confidence of the public in the faculty; we only seek, on the contrary, to induce physicians to strengthen and increase that confidence, by promptness, decision and ability, at a crisis of public danger."

As the said communication is officially signed, we infer, of course, that it had the sanction of the Academy. It being the work of such a body, we give the following, which shows the unhappy state into which the Academy has plunged itself.

"The object of this *too* long letter, I trust, sir, you will not, can not misapprehend. It is to deprecate the further attacks of one so able, so respectable, and so influential as yourself, against my cherished profession. There was a time, sir, when that profession conferred honor, and men venerated, loved, and confided in their physician. How is it now? The term is almost a laughing stock—synonymous almost with ignorance, temerity, petulance, and envy—ay, and with poverty. Regular practice is decried—mercenary folly and falsehood flourish under a thousand different names. The public has lost its confidence in

legitimate medicine, and throws itself blindly into the arms of renegades, pretenders, and empirics, and listens greedily to every absurdity which is offered to its eager embrace. And the profession may thank the press—and *you sir—amongst others*—for the condition into which it has fallen.

### QUARTERLY HOMŒOPATHIC JOURNAL.

*Edited by A. C. Becker, M. D., and published by Otis Clapp, Boston.*

The first number of the above named periodical, was received by us, from the publisher. The typographical execution is excellent. The work is to appear quarterly. The "Editor's Preface" is as follows, viz:

#### "EDITOR'S PREFACE."

"The object of this Journal will mainly be, to lay before the American reader, scientific and practically useful articles, selected from the current homœopathic literature of the day in Germany and France.

This, it is believed, will prove both interesting and instructive to those practitioners, who are desirous of watching the progress of the new system, and of the advancement of medical science in general; besides which, they will thus be enabled to profit by the experience of many able men, who have grown gray in the practice of homœopathy.

Its pages will also be open to communications from physicians at home, whose contributions are hereby solicited.

There is no disguising the fact, that two distinct parties exist in the homœopathic school. This may be new to some physicians in this country, who have been led to believe that there is entire unanimity on all points amongst the homœopathic physicians in Europe, yet it is most indisputably true, and will not be new to those who are familiar with the German and French homœopathic literature.

This division is not sectional, or of recent date, as has been intimated; but it extends throughout the wide dominion of the "Homœion," and originated with such very able men as Drs. Moritz Muller, Rau, Wolf, Trinks, Kretzschmar, Rummel, and others, who nearly a quarter of a century ago, openly, freely and frankly declared their dissent from Hahnemann on some of his theories, and the inferences which he drew from them;

more especially on the potency and psora theories, with their results. This gave rise to the organization of a distinct party in the school, in opposition to the "Hahnemannian" and the difference thus commenced, has not only continued since, but been widened of late by the introduction of the "high potences."

One party then adheres to homœopathy as founded, and bequeathed to us by Hahnemann; this it calls *pure* homœopathy. The other—accepting all that it believes to be confirmed by reason and experience—labors for the improvement and advancement of the new system, and by supplying where it perceives deficiencies, remedying imperfections, and replacing errors by truth, strives for a broader and more scientific foundation. This is called *rational* homœopathy. In the fundamental principles, however,—those which constitute the essence of homœopathy, and her imperishable pillars,—both parties agree.

They are :

1. The principle *similia similibus curantur*.
2. The proving of medicines on the healthy for the purpose of discovering the specific relation between the drug and the human organism.
3. The consequent indication in disease.
4. The efficacy of comparatively small doses.
5. The exhibition of simple substances.
6. Abiding the effects of each medicine.
7. Attention to dietetics.

It is difficult to say which of the two parties is the most numerous; but so far as accurate information can be obtained, it goes to show, that the last named is already the largest, as well as the most rapidly growing.

They have each their own journals in Germany and France, and we find on both sides an array of talent, learning and experience.

My own views and opinions I shall not obtrude upon the profession, but it would be idle in me to pretend, that they will not more or less influence me in the selection of articles.

It is not my desire, however, to excite or encourage party-spirit or contention, amongst those who are laboring in the same great cause, and with whom TRUTH should certainly be the one great and all-important aim.

I shall therefore, and with the view of rendering this Journal acceptable to ALL Homœopathic physicians in this country, make my

selections from the ablest writings on both sides."

Cambridge, Mass. December, 1848."

The character of this new Journal is pretty clearly indicated by the preface. It may be owing to our own extreme dullness of perception, that we do not perceive the pertinency of the definition of "*rational* homœopathy," especially, when we connect it, with the seven "imperishable pillars," in which, "both parties agree," as it is stated.

But we do perceive; that the pathological doctrines of the German and French schools; if made the guide in the selection of remedies, renders it impossible to follow the law of cure,—*similia similibus curantur*. We have no difficulty in comprehending, why, Rau, Trinks, Wolf and others, do not appreciate Hahnemann's principles and practice. If we do not fail in our German "literature," those named, were never regarded homœopaths, by Hahnemann himself. They, and those associated with them in Europe; and the Editor of the Quarterly, and those associated with him, in this country, fall into the common blunder of not regarding homœopathia, simply, a theory of *cure*; but, they try to make a theory of disease indicate the *cure*; which, sets aside the *law of cure*, as much so, as the administration of a cathartic, to cure costiveness; or of opium to cure a diarrhœa—Thereby they throw themselves into the arms of allopathy, which is plainly expressed by Dr. Muller :

"Homœopathy would have advanced much further, if we could administer a remedy, not against the totality of symptoms, but against the total character of the disease, against the total pathological condition. To this the efforts of the Homœopaths should be directed more than heretofore. If we no longer oppose the totality of symptoms of a disease, by the totality of symptoms of a medicine—but the disease by the similar characteristic of a medicine, we shall no longer be accused that 'like cures like' merely by the reflex of outwardly perceptible symptoms, founded on the fragment of a natural law."

This looks plausible—"the total pathological condition" has a learned charm about it, which has led many a sincere student of our science and art into the vortex of allopathy. We shall examine this doctrine hereafter.



"*Rational homœopathy*," if thoroughly examined, will be found to be, modified allopathy. Whoever doubts this assertion, may have, we think, his doubts removed, if he will muster patience enough to study Rau's Organon, Wolf's Theses, and Noack and Trink's Works. Hartman is not far removed from the same class, as may be seen in his "Acute Diseases." And Laurie's large work on the practice of medicine, is almost condemned, even by the "British Journal of Homœopathy," on account of its being at least a first cousin to allopathy.

Dr. Rapou, on page 6 of the Quarterly, agrees with us; he says, homœopathy "being founded on nature, is like nature immutable, it has no different systems, no general theory of diseases; it by no means rejects Nosology, but does not rely on it in the selection of a remedy."

Dr. Griesselich, although inclined to mystify some things, and pretends to take himself off the Hahnemannian track, yet even he, is found on our ground, as may be seen on page 11 of the Quarterly. He says "all pathological anatomy, all diagnostics based upon it, all microscopic research and chemistry, are but dead and unprofitable learning, if they remain without benefit to the *healing art*."

"Physiologists are working at the structure of medical *knowledge*, but with regard to medical *art* they are groping in the dark, as much as those who, using pathology like a shoemaker's last, model the products of pharmacodynamics upon it, and call the results of this cobbler-work, therapeutics."

"The present therapeutics of the physiological school are not a hair-breadth better than those of its predecessors, and cannot improve, as long as it holds in contempt the materials, offered from other quarters. So long as that school will confine itself to the toxicological path, it can accomplish but little towards therapeutics."

It would be well for those of the homœopathic school, to mark the "toxicological path;" and most carefully avoid it; for we fear, that those who wish to be styled "*rational homœopaths*" sometimes walk in that path. It is the poisonous path;—*the large dose of the crude drug often repeated-path*.

We can give no countenance to a division of our school into "*pure homœopathy*, and *rational homœopathy*." That which is not homœopathy—*pure homœopathy*—is not homœopathy at all,—it is something else.

Our limits will not allow of any further extracts or remarks. The Quarterly Homœopathic Journal has a determined look, and will doubtless live and thrive. We have been told that the subscription list is already encouraging to the publisher; and, it is not just to form a fixed opinion of what an Editor can accomplish from his first number.

From the Quarterly Homœopathic Journal.

*Pneumonia Lobularis*.—Dr. Bechet, was called on the 1st of June, to a man who had been six months confined to his bed, and had been treated allopathically without any benefit; his condition was so wretched, that Dr. Bechet at first declined taking charge of the case, but finally yielded to the man's entreaties. The symptoms were, great emaciation; hot skin; pulse 120, flushed face; difficulty of breathing, accelerated "diaphragmatic" frequent cough, and by fits and starts; at times a mere hack; expectoration of viscid mucus; occasionally streaked with blood, sometimes purulent, frequently tenacious and very little of it, lancinating pains in the chest increased by motion, difficulty in speaking, and causing dyspnœa; the same after every motion, a decubitus on the back, therefore the patient lies on his side. But little headache, bowels free, increased perspiration especially at night, sleep interrupted by the cough, chills in the afternoon. Stethoscope showed pneumonia lobularis; in some places restoration, and in others isolated hepatization (in both lungs.) *Bryonia* and *Mercur*. cured him. They were given in alternation; the former in the 15th—6. dil.; the latter of the 3—1 trit. On the 22d June the man went to church to thank the Almighty for his recovery; two of the three allopathic physicians who had attended him previously, became all the more hostile to homœopathy.—*Revue. Hom. du Midi*.

*Diabetes Mellitus*.—Dr. Maier, in Munich, reports the case of a man of forty-nine, who had been taking medicine for a considerable time. Dry skin, without any redness; emaciation, debility, eyes hollow, tongue uniform redness, not coated; appetite middling; abdomen free from pains, bloated; bowels regular, thirst great; urine greenish-yellow, larger in quantity than the amount of liquids taken, pulse rather frequent; the legs swollen from the knees to the ankles. The examina-

tion of the urine disclosed diabetes mellitus. Dr. Maier gave *Ammon. carb.* 2, morning and evening, two drops, 4th May, by the end of that month the general condition was better. By the middle of June he had gained flesh and strength, looked better, and there was less sugar in the urine. Change of diet made no difference. Beginning of August he had pneumonia, which exercised no influence on his diabetes; and when cured of it he again received *Amm.* At the end of September, the urine had lost its greenish yellow tint, and contained more traces of sugar. At the end of October the man was well.—*All. Zig. fur.*

*Caries on the Tibia.*—A man of thirty had the itch when a child; at twelve years of age he received a blow on the left shin. A large abscess formed in consequence, but it healed in a month; the patient had opened it himself; changes of the weather produced a pain on the same spot. In July, 1846, the pains increased: leeches, plasters, ointment—in vain. In October worse; leeches in great numbers; abscess formed again, a physician opened it, but it would not heal; a splinter of the bone was discovered, and attempts were made to remove it—unsuccessfully; actual cautery the patient would not submit to. He was discharged from the hospital at Marseilles, as incurable. Dr. Solier cured him with *Silicea* 24 and 30, several doses; *Silicea* was also externally applied; the splinter worked itself off, and out.—*Kevue hom. du. mudi.*

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 18, 1848.

DOCT. S. R. KIRBY—*Dear Sir*,—I have supposed on reflection since visiting you, that you would regard my remarks as illiberal, if not wanting in charity. As regards the old school, I think not, for I have read too much of your writings on that point. As to the new, there is a want of judgment in too many—independence in some who possess skill?—What would you think of a Homœopathist who would agree to attend a case of yellow fever with an Allopathist, each giving his remedies? Such I have known—I have the admission of the individual. The patient died of course. I know of one who has his Diploma—was formerly of the old school. He is neither the one nor the other. In this, the best here and at St. Louis agree with me. Can Homœopathy prosper in this way? Why is it we have so little real skill in this large

city? I answer the question—first, there is an opposition from the Allopathists that deters many. Again, the character of our diseases is misunderstood entirely. The yellow fever is regarded the worst: here is a mistake. The yellow fever if taken in season and properly treated by Homœopathy, is of easy cure; provided there is good nursing. This is all important. Such is the effect of this disease upon the system as to prostrate it in a short time. The tone of the stomach is lost—the appetite becomes suddenly strong before there is power to digest any thing but the lightest diet. A relapse has been produced after the patient was considered well, even with toast—taken too soon, or in too great a quantity—a small piece of beef-steak has often produced a relapse terminating fatally,—also, a glass of wine, or brandy, or ale,—and yet many Allopathists give it where there is great prostration.—Proper treatment by physician and nurse, will cure the yellow fever more surely, than the typhus or the Southern congestive—the latter is without doubt the most obstinate, and so soon runs its course, the means must be applied speedily. I have witnessed two deaths by this disease on steam-boats: both very strong and healthy men. Each walked the deck, with a little support, but a few hours before death. Allopathists were present, and prescribed. When I first saw them there was no circulation apparent. The congestion to the head and heart not very great. From cases treated (and the result) with Aconite, Bella., Digital. and Veratrum, I have no doubt these could have been saved. Now the apprehension that your physicians entertain of the danger is all a mistake. The only danger is the want of success, from a want of skill. Let some of your best come and try it. In one case of bilious colic—as it is called—this season, I saw a gentleman on a boat suffer four days. They gave him calomel and other violent cathartics. He said he must die. I asked him if he was willing to take Homœopathy. He said yes, anything. I gave him *Nux v.* in a few hours he was relieved. This ends my story on Homœopathy in N. O. If it will aid you in correcting some of the mistaken views entertained by your best physicians, and induce a part to occupy this wide field, my object is accomplished. None but men of mind, and well read, do we want.—The more experiencesuch have had the better. My letters, as observed before, are only for yourself. Excuse the liberty I have taken:



My apology is, that I wish to see the *truths* of Homœopathy spread—and no *humbug*.

Very respectfully,

\*. \*\*\*\*\*

DR. KIRBY,

Dear Sir:—I saw a communication in the *Annalist* of Dec. 1st, signed "N. P. B.," headed "Inefficiency of Homœopathy," giving the history of a case treated by myself, where the patient was allowed to run from a mild form of Pleuritis to one of imminent danger. The story is false and has *no foundation in truth*. I never treated "Mrs. M. A." for Pleuritis nor anything like it; and furthermore, I never treated a patient with Pleurisy or any other affection, I could not relieve, that fell into the hands of N. P. B. But the reverse has *repeatedly* happened, hence the motive for a fabrication wholly *false and malicious*.

Yours truly,

J. H. PAYNE.

Montville, Me., Dec. 7, 1848.

We presume the Editor of the *Annalist* will see fit to correct the error into which he was led by his correspondent "N. P. B."

ED.

### THE SCALPEL.

A periodical with the above title has just been published in this city. It is edited by a member of the allopathic school; and "The Scalpel" reminds us of the adage: "that is a bad bird, that fouls its nest." Although, at times, while reflecting on the state of the allopathic school of medicine, we have indulged in a soliloquy in the language of Shakespeare:

"You perceive the body of our kingdom,  
How foul it is."

Yet, we cannot sanction a publication of the character of "The Scalpel." The object, if we do not mistake, is, to ridicule the medical profession generally; and certain individuals of it particularly. There is an affectation of eccentricity;—the real thing, is arrogance. There is manifested, also, an overweening desire after popular applause; and an utter failure in the ridicule, and in the wit. The Editor understands "pulling down," but he has not the slightest notion of building up. He cuts right and left into his own school; but suggests nothing new, or of any value.

### MORTALITY IN NEW YORK.

The City Inspector has just published his annual report, from which it appears that during the year, 15,788 persons have died in this city. Of these, 7,373 have been under five years of age! What a horribly perverted state of things is that in which such wholesale infanticide is steadily practised by society! I say society, for it is notoriously the want of suitable social arrangements which destroys a large proportion of these murdered children. Were there fit provision for maternal and medical foresight in regard to them—for cleanliness, good food, good air, and the necessary care—who supposes that any such mortality would take place? What an absurdity to suppose that by any necessity of things so many thousands of children are born into the world merely to be extinguished like worthless candle-wicks! The fact is that these little creatures were designed to grow up to intelligence, honesty and usefulness, and society is bound to see that the means to that end are provided; neglecting this duty, society kills, or has them killed, which is the same thing.—*Correspondent Chronicle*.

### QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL SECRECY.

DR. VIRIELLE, of Rochelle, was consulted by M. B. for a venereal affection, which, without knowing it, he communicated to his wife. She separately consulted the same practitioner. Some time after the lady being desirous of procuring a separation from her husband, summoned Dr. Virielle as a witness, to testify to the injury she had received at his hands. Dr. Virielle refused to take the oath to speak the truth, as he could not reveal that which his professional obligations entitled him to keep secret; and he did not believe that even the authorization which the plaintiff offered him, as regarded her own case alone, would allow him to do so. The court decided that while the Code forbade professional revelations on the part of a physician made with an intention of doing injury, it did not authorise a refusal when demanded by justice; for this would be to exempt him from obligations which are imposed on all other citizens. The refusal is especially unjustifiable when the consultant herself demanded the revelation,

and did not seek for any in respect to her husband.

A fine of sixty francs was imposed; but the medical faculty of Rochelle have carried the case, by appeal, to the court of Poitiers, where it seems that in 1828, in a precisely analogous case, judgment was given in favor of the medical attendant.—*L'Union Médicale*, No. 50.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN FRANCE.

There are now more than fifty homœopathic practitioners in Paris alone, who, since the late revolution, have entered upon the same privileges and equal rights with their allopathic brethren. Lamartine, Bethmond, Marie, Creminieu, Louis Blanc, and other leading men, have for years been adherents of homœopathy. Orfila, dean of the medical faculty, and most bitter enemy to homœopathy, has been dismissed. In France, everything assumes a party color, and homœopathy has been forced to "fall in."—*Hygea*.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN ENGLAND.

In 1830, homœopathy was introduced in England by the noble family of Shrewsbury, who had become acquainted with it during their travels on the Continent. Soon after Lady Shrewsbury was married to the Italian prince, Doria Pamphili, who was followed to England by his body physician, the homœopath Dr. De Romano. He opened a clinique on the family estate "Alton Tower," in Derbyshire, and was assisted by Drs. Daniells and Roch. In February, 1830, they were mentioned—not in the most flattering terms—by the *British and Foreign Review*, (Forbes) but in 1839 that Journal had very much changed its tone, because meantime, the Queen Dowager Adelaide, after having been given up by her allopathic physicians, was saved,—(and is still alive) by Dr. Stapf, an eminent homœopathic physician in Naumburg, who had been expressly sent for to Germany. This cure opened the mansions of nobility to the new system, and gained many friends for it. Dr. Quin, physician to King Leopold of Belgium, threw up his situation, and settled in London, where he soon obtained a very large practice. There are now several homœopathic dispensaries, others are in prospect, there is a hospital likewise, and a very ably-conducted journal, "*The British Journal of Homœopathy*." Next to Quin we must mention Dr. Curie, who was at the head of one of the best dispensaries; it is open daily, and thirty to forty patients are attended to every day; since it was opened (1st October, 1839,) more than four thousand patients have been received. The most common complaints are gastric, owing to intemperance, to spices, strong tea, emetics, and frequent purging.

The new system is spreading rapidly in England, and a large number of physicians, enjoying considerable reputation, have recently declared themselves in its favor. It is in contemplation to erect a homœopathic institute, and more than £7000 have been subscribed towards it. There is a British Homœopathic Society, composed of physicians only; and another society, composed of about six hundred members, all friends of homœopathy, under the presidency of the duke of Beaufort, and vice presidency of the marquis of Anglesey. Both societies are active in promulgating the new doctrine. Amongst the nobility Earl Grosvenor is a warm advocate; amongst the physicians we may mention as prominent, Drs. Drysdale, Black and Dudgeon, (who have issued the prospectus of a new *materia medica*) Harris, Dunsford, Simpson, Laurie, Epps, Broaks, Ozann, Mayne, Cronin, Herring, Hamilton, Callmann.—*Allg. Hom. Zeitung*.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN SPAIN.

From the kingdom of the Sicilies, homœopathy was carried to Spain. It was first practised there in 1835, in Bajados, by a physician of some note, Dr. Pedro Rino y Huntado, next to him by Drs. Raphael Caseres and Florenzio Gomez, the latter head physician to the army in Estremadura; thence it spread in Sevilla (Lopez de Banno, Joseph Nostenchi and Jean Lorenzo Velecz) and in Granada. In Madrid, however, it gained most adherents by the efforts of Professors Joaquin de Hesian and Bartholimi Abrador, who established a dispensary. A journal was soon started, under the name "*Boleton Oficial de la Sociedad Hahnemanniana Madrileña*." The new system at first encountered there, as everywhere, powerful opposition, but the public took the matter up, and sided with the homœopaths. One of the last cities where it rooted was Barcelona, 1844. The number of homœopathic physicians is steadily on the increase, and a society has been formed at Madrid.—Spain is essentially the land of "high potences," as Russia is of the low dilutions, so much so that Dr. Simon, in Paris, *seriously* propounded the question before the Hahnemannian Society, "Whether the climate and the impressionability to medicinal influence, could be different between Spaniards and Russians?" That homœopathy has taken root in Spain, so rapidly and so deeply, is not to be wondered at. Medicine in Spain, an empty Alhambra, stood in great need of a reform. The doctors were knawing the Galenic and Arabic bones, dished up in sauce of Broussais, spiced with French eclecticism. Dr. Nunez, an ultra high potency advocate, is president of the society, and has been physician to the queen. Amongst the physicians of good standing in Madrid, we may name Rollan, Lario, Pardo, Fernandez del Rio, Suary, &c. Dr. Janer, dean to the medical faculty in Barcelona, an adherent to homœopathy, has made



comparative trials between allopathic and homœopathic treatment, of which we shall duly chronicle the results.—*Hom. Zig.*

### HOMŒOPATHY IN THE BRAZILS.

The first mention of homœopathy in this country, was made in 1837, by a German medical student, who made it the subject of his thesis, and defended it; Dr. Duque-Estrada, was the only physician at that time who studied the system. In 1842, Dr. Lisboa, a homœopathic practitioner, arrived at Rio; in 1843, Dr. Mure. On the 30th *March*, 1844, a homœopathic institute was opened, after a dispensary had already been in existence; more than one thousand patients were admitted every month; new dispensaries were founded. There are now twenty-four in Rio. According to Dr. Duque-Estrada's account, one-third of the population in Rio is homœopathic, more than twenty physicians practice it there, besides a large number in the country. The government has chartered a homœopathic college, which is very fully attended. The professors publish a journal, which they call "Science." The students must attend three years, and then, if qualified, receive their diploma. Thus Rio has the credit of having been the first to legalize the instruction in homœopathy.—*Hygea.*

### OMINOUS.

There is much fluttering among allopathic physicians, because clergymen are losing confidence in their practice. Several medical journals are out upon them, with a heavy hand. We do not think, however that the clergy will suffer any serious injury in their persons, property or reputation, by the denunciations of allopathic Journals.

It may not be generally known, that all the quackery now existing, in all its forms, had its origin in the allopathic school of medicine. Advertised quack medicines, are designed mostly as cathartics, tonics or expectorants; and if these effects are produced, the drugs of which they are made, are those usually employed for the same purpose in allopathic practice. All quacks, so far as we know, embrace the humoral pathology as the foundation of their practice; and it is consistent with it. The allopathic school, reject the humoral pathology; but it continues the same practice, with only occasional modifications, as when that pathology, was almost universally received by the profession, as the true theory of disease.

### "NOTICES OF EMPIRICISM.

The Western Lancet for October has an article with the above heading, in which is the following, viz:

"Quackery always assumes to itself a certain insight into the nature and seat of diseases. Besides the confident boastings that morbid action is evidently revealed to the sagacity of the ignorant pretender, either through a novel process of examination, or by a superior acumen on the part of the empirical boaster, quackery always avows with audacious mendacity that the regular profession know nothing of the subject in comparison with this modest proclaimer of his own merits."

We take it, that this is intended for a definition of quackery—a rule by which, it, and a quack may be known. Now, we ask, how can any one in his senses, at all acquainted with the subject, make it apply to homœopathy; or the genuine practitioners of that system? Yet, the Western Lancet does so.

The Annalist thinks, that the Physicians of the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary were crazy; because they appointed a committee from their own body, to visit the hospitals at the Quarantine to "*ascertain whether the Asiatic Cholera really existed there.*" If this is evidence of insanity, some of the members of the N. Y. Academy of Medicine ought to be confined in a lunatic asylum, for administering ten grains of *Tart. Emetic*, and afterwards reporting the case *Asiatic Cholera*; and also, for reporting another case of that disease, after the patient had been bled largely, and taken a hundred or more grains of Calomel, and his body covered with mustard plaster. Another case was reported, which on investigation by the Coroner, proved to be caused by a large dose of *Arsenic*.

### ERRORS.

Several typographical errors occurred in Dr. Payne's paper, which appeared in No. 9 of this Journal. In the second column of the first page, read "For we hold that every man's opinion, in this matter, should be respected." On page 132, second column, read "destructive tendency." On page 133, second column, for would, read "words," and in the same column for *iris* read "*oils*," and a few others,—unimportant.

As our Journal was going to press, we heard of the sudden death of Dr. A. C. Becker of Cambridge, Mass., Editor of the Quarterly Homœopathic Journal.

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vols. 1 & 2 of the , 'AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY,' may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, MARCH, 1849.

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HOMŒOPATHIA:—ITS ADVOCATES.

Those pernicious doctrines which constitute Allopathia; which for ages, have been received as true in medical treatment; make it easier to impose upon the sick and their friends the monstrous absurdities of that system; than to induce them to acknowledge, and firmly adhere to those clear, and established principles in the art of healing, which are found in homœopathia. The following from Sampson on Homœopathy is to the point:

"It will seem that, if the system be true, the daily cures which are sure to be performed under it must rapidly bring conviction to the public mind; and that consequently only a very short period can be expected to pass before its universal recognition. A little reflection, however, will convince us that these anticipations are not to be depended on, and that it is desirable for those who most clearly recognise the truth of the doctrine to prepare for a long, and what must oftentimes prove a

disheartening struggle, before it can be firmly established.

In the first place we must look at the generally slow progress of new doctrines, and we shall see that not unfrequently this slowness is in direct proportion to their real importance. The greatest doctrine ever bestowed upon mankind has now been preached for eighteen hundred years, and although every hour of each man's life might serve to illustrate its truth, it is still absolutely rejected by a large majority of the world, while it is also decried as "inapplicable," even by its professors, whenever it is insisted upon as the only true foundation for the actions alike of individuals and communities. If then a palpable truth, addressed to mankind at large, embracing every interest, and illustrated and confirmed by each passing fact, is thus derided by the many, and practically neglected, even where it is not derided, the advocate of a truth relating merely to a special department of physical science should be well prepared to submit to indifference and neglect, and should at the same time bear in mind, that its proportionably quicker progress can only result from its comparative insignificance. If great truths were usually such as could be generally received by the age to which they are presented, their discoverers, instead of being men in advance of their time, could merely be regarded as persons who had luckily stumbled upon a new thing which every one else was equally prepared to recognise and appreciate so soon as it should be similarly presented to them.

The respective degree of ability to recognise truth, forms the only distinction between different minds, and if a wholly novel truth were, in any case, simultaneously received with equal ardor and clearness by the trained and the untrained, (and by training I mean not merely intellectual but moral advantages,) we should then be entitled to infer that, as far

at least as such truth had been concerned, these respective conditions of mind had not been of the slightest importance. But we do not find this to be the case; and it is therefore the privilege of those who believe themselves to be engaged in a true cause, to believe also that by the hostility they are called upon to overcome, they may measure the height to which, as far as relates to that cause, they have reached beyond their fellows.

Judging therefore from the importance of Homœopathy, as a branch of physical science, we may assume that it will yet have much to contend with. Experience is sufficient to bring us to this conclusion, even if we could not see any of the direct causes from which difficulties may spring; but as some of these causes may even now be detected, it may be well to glance at them, and thus—in so far, at least, as they are concerned—to avert future disappointment.

It must be borne in mind, that the majority are apt in all cases, to judge rather from the narrow facts that may come immediately under their own observation, than from any process of comprehensive reasoning. We may present a man, day after day, with statistics concerning the fires that occur in the town where he resides, and show him by the clearest evidence the chances of such an accident, and the propriety of effecting an insurance; but although our statement may embrace several thousand instances, it will not have so powerful an effect as would be produced by the partial burning of a house within a few doors of his own. In like manner therefore, the majority of converts to Homœopathy will derive their faith, not from its broad evidences and a sense of the general reasonableness of the system, but from certain remarkable cases which they may chance to have seen with their own eyes. Now this kind of faith, although it is usually the most ardent while it lasts, is very uncertain and deceptive. The person who believes in Homœopathy because he has seen his neighbor's child cured, will be very enthusiastic so long as he finds similar results take place; but if one of his own family were to fall sick and die under Homœopathic treatment, this fact, more startling to his mind than any other, would assume a greater prominence than all that had gone before, and he would then be very likely first to grow cool to the system, and next to regard it with that kind of animosity which is peculiar to those who apostatize from a faith to

which they have once ardently belonged. He would not test the system by the proportionate mortality of an equal number of similar cases treated in the old way, and bear in mind, that under any method, a certain number of deaths must occur, and that he had made choice of that which experience shows to yield the most favorable results; but would only remember the one fact that had impressed him more than all others, namely, that *his* child had died,—a fact which he would never be able to render subordinate to a less personal and larger view. He has believed in the new system, merely because he has seen some cases of cure; and when a different result takes place, he has nothing to fall back upon. He has no argument to show that if Homœopathy has failed, every other method would certainly have failed also; while at the same time he feels, that if he had pursued the old system, he would have had the sanction of the world, from whom the death, occurring under "the best advice," and in the ordinary way, would then have called for no remark.

Recognising, therefore, that a large proportion of its converts will be of this description, we must expect a constant re-action against the system, which, although not ultimately hurtful, must have the effect of rendering its progress steady rather than rapid. All who fall away from the truth, produce at the time a greater effect than would result from the accession of twenty times their number: but we must remember, that by the withdrawal of those who are unfitted to act as its propagators, the real followers of the doctrine are rendered more compact, more cautious in selecting their allies, and more sensible of the necessity for constant efforts towards unfolding and perfecting it.

Another source of injury must arise from the fact, that not only many of its ordinary converts, will come under the above description, but also many of its professional ones. Practitioners converted rather from witnessing the effects of the treatment in a certain number of individual cases, than from the combined action of observation and reflection, will take up the system without any clear perception of the universal application of the law on which it rests; and will therefore be tempted, whenever any difficulty occurs, to seek to cut it short, by resorting to the old methods. Not being able to comprehend a general law, they will believe that Homœopathy is good "to a certain extent;" and when they find them-



selves unable to produce satisfactory results, they will attribute to an imperfection in the *principle*, that which proceeds solely from their own want of skill and experience in carrying it out. Circumstances have shown that conduct of this sort will eagerly be seized upon and exposed by the opponents of the system, and produce an effect upon the public. Exposures, indeed, of the inconsistencies of some Homœopathic practitioners have already been put forth, which, although correct in themselves, are liable to obstruct the cause, because they dishonestly represent Homœopathy to be implicated in the follies of all those by whom it may be professedly recognised and practiced.

It must also be born in mind that even when a practitioner thoroughly recognises the principle, much care and experience is requisite towards its successful application. It does not follow because a person places himself under a Homœopathic practitioner, that the remedies perfectly Homœopathic to his symptoms are sure to be hit upon,—or even if such should be the case, that they should be administered at such intervals or in such proportions as to effect a cure in the speediest possible way. Yet many persons, after taking one or two doses of medicine, would not hesitate to assert that they had “tried” Homœopathy, and thus utterly to condemn the system, because the practitioner had proved himself not infallible.

Another cause from which failures are liable may also be pointed out. In the treatment of disease there are many things to be attended to beyond the administration of medicine. Among these the most important is the regulation of diet. Now in this respect there are remarkable differences among Homœopathic practitioners. There is one body, for instance, who adopt the views of the Allopathists on this subject, and who coincide with Dr. Andrew Combe, Dr. Barlow, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Tweedie, and other eminent physiological writers of the old school, in maintaining that the diet of patients should always be regulated in strict conformity with their powers of digestion, and that in no case should food be given which the digestive organs are unable to deal with; while, on the other hand, there is a body who unequivocally repudiate this doctrine. This is not the place to attempt to decide between these conflicting opinions, (further, perhaps, than to remark, that the view of the first party, and of the authorities

above mentioned, is most in accordance with the Homœopathic principle; since when nausea and want of true appetite are amongst the symptoms, it would be anti-pathic to endeavor to overcome those symptoms by presenting stimulants to the palate); but it will be seen, that whichever doctrine is the correct one, those who follow its opposite must commit errors which, in critical cases, may lead to a fatal result, even when the medicines administered may have been perfectly well chosen. Until harmony of view, therefore, shall have been arrived at on important questions of this nature, failures must repeatedly occur under Homœopathic practitioners which, it is probable, the public will not sufficiently discriminate from the results of the medical treatment.

It must also be borne in mind, that Homœopathy lies under the disadvantage of demanding, on the part of those who come under its influence, an abstinence from many pernicious though agreeable habits of living; and that this will probably form no slight element of unpopularity. The Homœopathic practitioner does not permit his patient to counteract one medicine by taking another at the same time; nor does he recognise, that substances having a powerful medicinal action can at any time be desirable articles for healthy persons. Thus, strong tea, coffee, ale, wine and spirits, tobacco, &c.,—things which with some individuals, make up the greater part of life's enjoyments, are at all times discouraged, as tending to disturb health, while during treatment they are positively forbidden.

When, in addition to these considerations, we recognise the circumstance mentioned in the last chapter, that the great body of medical men have signified their determination not to look at the facts of Homœopathy; that the members of this body in London alone amount to upwards of two thousand, and that there is scarcely a family which has not some connexion with the profession likely to produce an influence in leading to a similar determination; that no medical man holding a public appointment can avow his conversion to Homœopathy without the danger of immediate dismissal; that in the metropolitan county of England it cannot be pursued without the chance of a Coroner's Inquest being called in cases of fatal termination, while the thousands who die daily under the opposite treatment are laid in their graves without inquiry; we shall see how much there is constantly to



operate prejudicially on the public mind in relation to the system, and at the same time to deter those of the profession who might be disposed to a candid course from undertaking the responsibility of its investigation.

It may also be remarked, that the advocates of the system will do well to anticipate many blows which will be dealt against it, the effects of which can only be partially counteracted. It will sometimes, probably, happen for them to hear an Allopathic practitioner declare in general society that he has tried the system, and found nothing in it.

A request that he will detail the nature of his experiments will soon enable a judgment to be formed of their value; but amongst ordinary persons, by whom he is looked up to, and when no Homœopathist is present, the bare assertion will be received as effectually settling the matter. It does not follow that, in putting forward this assertion, an attempt to mislead shall deliberately have been made; for the history of science affords many remarkable instances of the way in which persons setting about the commonest experiments with a desire to find them fail, do really obtain this gratification. When Newton announced his discovery of the composition of light, a person named Mariotte, who was very conversant with experiment, was amongst his most energetic opponents; and this philosopher had the misfortune, or good fortune, as he probably considered it, never to succeed in repeating the experiments by which the discovery was to be demonstrated.

It is likewise to be considered, that immediately after the first enunciation of any great principle, circumstances must constantly be expected to present themselves which may seem to be inconsistent with its action, and which it may consequently be difficult to reconcile. Thus to one who should hear, for the first time, of the law of gravitation, the circumstances of a balloon ascending, or of a fly walking on the ceiling, or of a spider extending its thread from a hedge, or across a road or brook, would seem at once to disprove its truth; whereas, upon his becoming fully acquainted with the processes by which these things take place, he would find that they offer the most complete illustrations of the law to which, at first sight, they appeared exceptions. When Jenner introduced vaccination, he found that there were some persons who had had the cow-pock, as they thought naturally, but who, nevertheless, were found

not to have been protected from the small-pox. The circumstance, at first, could not easily be explained, and hasty and credulous objectors would probably at once have run to the conclusion that his doctrine was overturned—but a little patience served to put the matter right. It turned out that there are several diseases communicated by the cow, and that the affection in question had not been of the same nature as that which formed the subject of the great discovery.

In conclusion, it only remains to urge upon those who recognise the doctrine, the responsibility which this recognition involves. It is not enough that they should *use* the truth, and congratulate themselves on the personal advantages they derive from it. It would never have reached them but for the exertions of others, and these exertions they are bound in turn to take up, so that the light which has been freely bestowed upon them may be as freely communicated to their fellows. It is a common thing for persons to dream of the good they would do if they had but the "opportunity;" but opportunity always lies at our feet if we had but the will to see it. At all events, let those who recognise Homœopathy never trust to the plea that means of usefulness have been denied to them. They must reflect that a great truth has been given to their charge; that this truth is not destined to perish; and that, if those who have been called to carry it forward falter in their task, the *opportunity*, now their own, will be snatched from them and given to others. If they avail themselves of its benefits, and deny it before the world, or coldly withhold acknowledgment of their belief, they will, doubtless, find their reward in the consciousness that they have maintained their popularity and discreetly sacrificed the future to the present. As slaves of opinion, however, it is their fate unfortunately never to know rest: they must shift their course with its shifting tides, and always be on the watch, lest at one time they commit themselves by acknowledging, and at another time by denying, too much;—while, on the other hand, he who relies upon truth, regardless of all else, occupies the same position when it becomes universally received, as he filled when it was universally contemned. He has, moreover, the consciousness of a task fulfilled; and, looking back at the close of life to the time when the doctrine which it was his privilege to receive was first struggling into view, and tracing it in its gradual



extension over the earth, he is able to ask himself, with a glad certainty of the reply, "What has been my portion in this great work?"

### ELISHA BARTLETT, M. D., ON THE CERTAINTY OF MEDICINE.

Several Medical Journals (Allopathic) have noticed with much commendation the work of Dr. Elisha Bartlett, entitled "*An Inquiry into the Degree of Certainty in Medicine; and into the Nature and Extent of its Power over Diseases.*"

We have only read portions of the work, as they were found in the several reviews. Dr. B. has investigated, very closely, an interesting question: "What is our [Allopathic] practice worth?" His answer to this question will not, we think, be satisfactory, to the more intelligent of his own school. For the reason, he has not in all his facts, and arguments, advanced any thing to enhance confidence in Allopathic practice.

The following is an admission, we did not expect to find, only in that whining clique the New York Academy of Medicine.

"I am stating only what everybody knows to be true, when I say that the general confidence which has heretofore existed in the science and art of medicine, as this science has been studied, and as this art has been practised, has within the last few years been violently shaken and disturbed, and is now greatly lessened and impaired. The hold which medicine has so long had upon the popular mind is loosened; there is a wide-spread skepticism as to its power of curing diseases, and men are everywhere to be found who deny its pretensions as a science, and reject the benefits and blessings which it proffers them as an art."

Dr. B. did not deem it necessary, "to point out the causes and influences which have led to this state of things." Our own opinion is, that the progress of Homœopathy has been the chief cause in diminishing confidence in Allopathy. And, this good work will go on, if the advocates of the former, continue faithful to her principles in the practice. If not, not.

*The New York Journal of Medicine* for January, 1849, has an able review of the above work, by J. H. S. who he is, we do not know; whoever he may be, the review before us, shows him "no man's man." Dr. Bartlett is an advocate of bleeding, and the use of

Antimony in the treatment of *pneumonia*. In reference to which, J. H. S. says; "Now, supposing that we admit the whole of the conclusions deduced from M. Louis' observations, what is the amount of our information? simply, that out of a number of cases of pneumonia, those who are bled are more likely to recover than those who are not, and those who are bled early, are more likely to recover soon than those who are bled late."

"That to lessen the quantity of blood which passes through inflamed parts, is good for them is certain, provided we can secure plenty of good blood to heal them, when we require it. But we protest against this being considered proof of any positive knowledge on the subject of the disease and its treatment. *In what does inflammation of the lungs consist? What are the certain means of stopping that process and restoring the parts to health?* These are two questions which receive no answers from the results of bleeding.

An acute observer of disease and remedy, would perceive that as inflammation consisted in some disturbance of the circulation, and health consisted in the restoration of the circulation to its original condition, the *secret of remedy* would be found in the management of the *cause* of the circulation. The *blood* is not the *cause* of its circulation; for the self-same quantity of blood may be in the vessels when it does not circulate at all, as when it does most healthily, as daily instanced in concussions, epilepsy, and so forth. *The taking away of blood does nothing directly but alter the quantity.*

*Indirectly*, by taking away the fluid which contains the life, we diminish the life itself, and the means of obtaining life, the respiration.—*Bleeding, therefore, diminishes the quantity of life.* Can a man have too much of life? It matters not, that from the days of Hippocrates down to now, bleeding has been adopted. It matters not, that it relieves the tension, and of necessity the pain of an inflamed part. It does not act upon the part diseased, producing any change in its condition. How, therefore can we designate it as a remedy?"

On the Tartar Emetic treatment of Pneumonia, J. H. S. says: "We honestly confess this goes as much against our stomach as the bleeding was against our heart. We have both given and taken considerable doses of this compound, and are able to appreciate its operation on the bodies of pneumonic patients." After a long quotation from Dr. Bartlett in favor of the Antimonial Treatment of Pneumonia, J. H. S. proceeds:

"We cannot say that we are one whit more in love with tartar emetic, than we were; and the mention of it always makes our "gorge



rise." Much as Rasori, Louis, Trousseau, and Grisolles, on the continent, are enraptured with it; much as the Elliotson and Clutterbuck school, in England, may patronize it, still we feel justified in denouncing its use.

For an art to claim the respect of a science by putting forth a statement that after the lapse of two thousand years, the best discovered mode of treating pneumonia, is by bleeding and giving large doses of tartar emetic; neither of which, nor both combined, can do more than mitigate the symptoms in a proportion of cases, is not to make out a strong case. The philosopher and philanthropist will scarcely recognise the claim, and a court of equity would hardly decree in favor of it if contested. It does not appear to us that such remedies are worth the time, attention and respect, which are claimed for them in so many colleges of learning and science throughout the world.

We remember a Professor of Toxicology, who announced that he had discovered a new test for arsenic, which he thought would be of immense importance. The medical world thronged to see the application of the test. Much time was employed in preparing and applying it, and all were on the tip-toe of expectation. The test was applied; but no phenomenon appeared. Again it was applied, but without the slightest effect. We ventured to suggest that the Professor might perchance have taken the wrong bottle. He assured us that *he* was correct. We ventured on another observation, that perhaps the *test* had not been properly prepared, or that there was no arsenic present in the substance tested. Both of these ignorant, not to say impudent suggestions, were rejected with disdain. We waited, and a pause ensued. The Professor, taking off his spectacles and passing his white handkerchief over his forehead, said, "Gentlemen, I have occasionally found this test cannot be relied upon; but usually it is a safe one!" Such are our remedies, only the sentence ought to be reversed. "*Occasionally*, they are useful, *but in general* they cannot be relied on."

J. H. S.' Review, will be so interesting to a homœopathic practitioner, that we transcribe, another branch of it.

"He, (Dr. Bartlett) groups diseases, and presents us with the ascertained effects of remedies.

His first group consists of such diseases as "*common catarrh, simple acute diarrhœa, and simple jaundice.*" Of these he merely says—"They, may, generally, be safely let alone—but most of them may be favorably influenced by an appropriate medication." Modest enough, certainly, and agreed to.

His next group is "Functional dyspepsia, chorea, and chlorosis." The only thing which is adduced to prove our science, is in the following sentence: "If our science and art had done nothing more than to ascertain the effects of iron upon this malady, (chlorosis,) they would have presented a gift to humanity, tha

ought at least to shield them from the blind and bitter assaults of arrogant ignorance and wooden-headed stupidity."

The author's wheels are warming, we may expect some fire soon. The next group is "Sporadic dysentery, simple acute rheumatism, acute pleurisy, tonsillitis, catarrhal croup, and so on." Of these he says, we cannot do much for them, except give opium for dysentery, and an emetic for croup.

The fourth group "includes most of the serious local inflammations, and all the general fevers—continued, periodical and exanthematous. Whooping cough, Asiatic cholera, erysipelas and delirium tremens." We must here let our author speak out.

"These diseases differ so widely amongst themselves, in their relation to remedies, that it is difficult to speak of them in general terms. Some of them are more obviously and more uniformly influenced by remedies than others. There is no more doubt, for instance, of the favorable effects of blood-letting upon inflammation of the pericardium, of the liver, of the kidneys, than there is of these effects on pneumonia. There is no more doubt of the efficacy of wine, in certain stages and conditions of British typhus, than there is of the effects of antimony in pneumonia. Every day there are multitudes of patients with this disease, as directly and obviously saved from death by active stimulants, as the life of a famishing man is saved by food.

And we find here one of the most constant, and one of the most important therapeutic relations—I mean that between periodical fever and Peruvian bark. The power of opium to allay functional spasm, and to abate neuralgic pain; the antiphlogistic action of antimony, in inflammation of the lungs; the effects of an emetic in catarrhal croup, of iron in chlorosis, of wine in low typhus, are not more invariable and certain, than is the power of cinchona to control and arrest the periodical element, in the great family of malarious fevers. The simple forms of these diseases do, indeed, very commonly subside and cease; they rarely destroy life immediately and directly; but their repeated occurrence at length undermines and breaks down the constitution, while in their more violent manifestations, they are as suddenly fatal as yellow fever; and for the prevention of these results we have one reliable and heroic remedy—cinchona. Somewhat as I said of iron in chlorosis, this gift to humanity is a boon and a blessing; that ought to secure for medical science and medical art the deep and everlasting gratitude of the world."

"We single out a sentence for comment, and shall then pass to something else worth noticing. The sentence is this: "There is no more doubt of the efficacy of wine in certain stages and conditions of British typhus, than there is of the effects of antimony in pneumonia."

"To our mind, this is not saying much for the value of the wine. If wine be of any ser-



vice in these cases, it is solely on account of its property of imparting caloric to the solids and fluids of the body. However, as this is done by the decomposition and destruction of a portion of the organization, we hardly know how this agent can be fairly called a remedy. The tartrate of antimony decomposes the blood and solids of the body most fearfully. Witness the bloody vomitings and purgings which accompany its use. It forms a compound with the albumen, rendering it insoluble. The tissue thus is broken up, and the blood rushes through the gap. To us, it is an awful remedy.

"Our author confesses that 'confluent small pox, algid epidemic cholera, malignant scarlatina, and the adynamic and ataxic forms of typhus and typhoid fever, not only very frequently terminate in death, but they seem to be very little influenced, in any way by remedial measures.' Then we have another frank and large confession :

" 'Our fifth group is constituted by a most formidable and appalling catalogue of diseases—having no tendency towards a favorable termination ; but little or not at all under the control of remedies ; and self-limited only by death. To this class belong hydrophobia, epilepsy, traumatic tetanus, scirrhus and cancer, softening of the brain, tuberculous meningitis, phthisis, membranous croup, diabetes, albuminuria, and various structural lesions of the heart and other viscera. Most of these diseases are, in the present state of science, beyond the reach of medicine—some of them nearly, and others absolutely so. Amongst thousands of cases of hydrophobia, there are not half-a-dozen authentic examples of recovery ; the disease has an invincible tendency towards death.' "

If the above be carefully analysed, it will be perceived, that by Dr. Bartlett's own showing, the true answer to the question "What is our practice worth ? it is of no value. J. H. S. shows, that it is not only valueless, but pernicious. Iron is an uncertain remedy in *Chlorosis*, as we know, from our own observation. We could point to several cases, in which iron had been given daily for months, with no benefit whatever. Iron cannot cure *Chlorosis*.

Opium is not a remedy for Dysentery, and whoever relies upon it, will be deceived.—Nearly all those diseases in which Dr. Bartlett represents allopathy as powerless ; homœopathy has cured ; such as, *epilepsy, traumatic tetanus, scirrhus and cancer, phthisis, membranous croup, diabetes* and others. We can of our own knowledge, speak of the power of homœopathy to effect permanent cures of the diseases here named. What we have read of Dr. Bartlett's work has, more firmly, established us in the opinion, that allopathy is evil,

only evil, continually. He represents Dr. Forbes, as having done a bad thing, by publishing the paper entitled, *Allopathy, Homœopathy, and Young Physic* ; but Dr. B. in another mode, has done more, much more, to destroy confidence in Allopathy, than did Dr. Forbes, therefore we recommend the reading of Dr. Bartlett's *Inquiry into the Degree of Certainty in Medicine, &c.*

### OPIMUM, TARTAR EMETIC, AND MERCURY, INJURIOUS, IN THE DOSES OF THE ALLOPATHIC SCHOOL.

The injurious effects of medicines on the human system as administered by Allopathic practitioners, apothecaries and others, are not understood by those who prescribe them, nor by those who receive them. There seems to exist a kind of mania among the people to swallow drugs. Apothecary shops, are almost as numerous in this city, as retail grocery stores, and the one is visited as often as the other, by the inhabitants who live in the vicinity of their locations. Thousands upon thousands, have found premature graves on account of drugs alone ; and not a person in full health, can be found, who swallows drugs in emetic, cathartic and anodyne doses. This evil lies at the door of the allopathic school. Physicians of that school act, as if human health and life were of very little value or importance. This assertion we will prove, by well established facts, from among themselves. Dr. Beck, in a work lately published, entitled "Infant Therapeutics" speaks of the "effects of opium on the young subject," and says : "there is scarcely an article, in the whole range of the *Materia Medica*, capable of producing a greater amount of mischief." Dr. Beck enumerates the following cases : viz ;—

"Dr. John Clarke states, that "half a drachm of genuine syrup of white poppy, and in some instances, a few drops of Dalby's Carminative, have proved fatal, in the course of a few hours, to very young infants." In one case, he says, forty drops of Dalby's Carminative destroyed an infant. Mr. Marley says, "I have known three or four instances where the most dangerous symptoms were produced by Godfrey's Cordial and Dalby's



Carminative; two nostrums which have no doubt added considerably to the mortality of infants." In a case that fell under his observation, the most rapid and alarming symptoms followed the exhibition of an ordinary dose of syrup of poppies. In another case, he knew half a small tea-spoonful of the syrup of poppies prove nearly fatal to a child eight or ten days old. Thirty-five drops of Dalby's Carminative, he has known to prove fatal to a young child, while, in other cases, larger doses have been given without any unpleasant effects. The same writer relates the case of an infant, nearly poisoned, by considerably less than half an ordinary sized tea-spoonful of paregoric. Dr. Bard says, he once knew an infant of several months old killed by ten drops of laudanum, and another brought into very great danger by less than two drops. Dr. Montgomery states, that he has known more than one instance in which a tea-spoonful of the syrup of poppies has proved fatal to a healthy child. Professor Hamilton relates two cases, in which four drops of laudanum proved fatal to children some months old. Dr. Merriman reports two cases, in which a dose of Godfrey's Cordial proved fatal. He also states, that he once saw a child in the month thrown into a state of excessive stupor, by taking one dose only of a mixture in which there were four drops of laudanum; the actual quantity swallowed could scarcely have amounted to one drop. Dr. Cristison states, that "the administration of three drops of laudanum in a chalk mixture for diarrhœa, to a stout child, fourteen months old, was followed by coma, convulsions and death in six hours." In another infant, a few weeks old, death resulted from taking four drops of laudanum. Dr. Ryan states, that he has known one drop of the "sedative liquor of opium" narcotize an infant. Of laudanum, two drops have been known to kill an infant, nay, in one case, a single drop destroyed a new-born infant. I have myself seen a young child narcotized by about twenty drops of paregoric."

Dr. B. has endeavored to reach some rule for the safe administration of opium; but in this he has utterly failed. The reason, to our mind, is obvious, human sufferings never require the anodyne effects of opium. The homœopathic remedy in the smallest dose will promptly relieve pain. We are not aware that opium, can ever be homœopathically in-

dicated to mitigate pain, or cure a diarrhœa, or to relieve the restlessness of infants. It is not at all adapted to any of the conditions in which it is employed in allopathic practice. That school is quite ignorant of the therapeutic use of opium. And, the mischief, which pertains to that drug, must continue, so long as it is prescribed antipathically. A few years ago, we were requested to see a lady, who the day previously, it was said, had a strangulated Hernia; and who had been attended by two eminent surgeons. When we saw her, there was no evidence of a Hernia; but she was actually dying of the effects of opium, which had been given her in a dose of sixty drops of laudanum. Here was a valuable life sacrificed by the ignorance of allopathy.

On Antimonial preparations, Dr. Beck remarks:—

"Dr. Clarke, of London, states that "a quarter of a grain of Tartrate of Antimony in solution, has been known to excite a vomiting which has ended in the death of a young child, which before was in no danger." Dr. Armstrong observes that he "has seen again and again, delirium produced by antimonial preparations, given so as to excite the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestinal canal in very young children." Dr. Hamilton advises, that "Tartar Emetic should never be given to infants, for alarming convulsions have followed its use." By Mr. Noble, of Manchester, a case is related, in which the death of a child, eleven months old, was owing to the effect of antimonial wine given as an emetic. Mr. Wilton, (surgeon to the Gloucester Infirmary) has also reported two cases of children, one a year old and the other four years old, which were manifestly destroyed by the use of antimonial wine given for ordinary colds. Slight convulsions—vomiting—diarrhœa—sudden prostration and death took place, notwithstanding the use of cordials and stimulants. I have known a case occurring in this city, in which the one thirtieth part of a grain of Tartar Emetic given to a child a year old, laboring under croup, produced such severe and protracted vomiting, together with general prostration, as to require stimulants to save life. Some years since I was called to see a child, about three years old, who had been attacked with scarlet fever. The symptoms at first were mild, and no dan-



ger was apprehended in the case, when it was suddenly taken with such alarming symptoms of prostration as to call for a consultation. On inquiry, I found that the attending physician had been prescribing small doses of Tartar Emetic. Notwithstanding the use of stimulants, the child died in an hour or two after I saw it. I then suspected, and have since been confirmed in the correctness of the suspicion, that the medicine had no little agency in bringing about the fatal result."

Dr. B. says, also, "The Hive Syrup of Dr. Coxe, which is now in every family, and is given on the slightest occasions to infants, without even consulting a physician, has, I am convinced, done a great deal of harm."—The principle ingredient in that syrup is Tartar Emetic. Here too Dr. Beck fails to give a rule of any value for the safe administration of Tartar Emetic, and notwithstanding his cautions in its use; it will, doubtless, be still employed by allopathists, to the injury of thousands.

From the same work we quote: "That Mercury is an agent of immense power, either for good or evil, upon the human constitution, cannot be questioned. While in many cases it is the means of saving life, in not a few it unquestionably destroys it."

"Although mercury so seldom salivates infants, yet, notwithstanding this, it cannot be doubted that it affects the system profoundly, and even more so proportionally than it does the adult."

"What shows incontestibly that the action of mercury is actually more energetic on the infant than the adult, is the fact, that when salivation does take place in the former, as it sometimes does, its effects are most disastrous. Sloughing of the gums and cheeks, general prostration and death are by no means uncommon occurrences. On this subject, Dr. Blackall justly remarks, "a general opinion prevails, that the constitutions of young subjects resist mercury. Its entrance into the system they certainly do resist, more than we could expect: but they are greatly overcome by salivations, and the possible occurrence of such accidents may well set us constantly on our guard." Dr. Ryan, too, says, "Ptyalism of infants is often followed by sloughing of the gums and cheeks; and this I have known to occur after the use of it in Hydrocephalus."

"The fact that mercury may prostrate and

destroy a young child, even though it does not cause salivation, is to be feared is not sufficiently appreciated, at least by some. I have known calomel given without weight or measure, to a young child, and the reason assigned to justify it was, that it could do no harm because it would not salivate. Now it appears to me that no opinion can be more unfounded, and no practice more mischievous. Although a single dose of calomel, even though large, may be well borne by children of ordinary strength of constitution, yet even this is not entirely safe in all cases. And when these doses are frequently repeated, particularly in delicate habits, the most serious consequences may result.

The use of mercury in young subjects as an alterative, should in all cases be conducted with great caution. There is no practice more common than that of continuing the use of this agent in small doses, for a considerable time, and certainly none which is more liable to abuse. Under the idea that the dose is so small and from no salivation appearing, we are apt to infer that even if the medicine is not doing any good it is certainly not doing any harm. Any improvement too, which occurs during the use of the article, is sure to be attributed to the silent operation of it on the system. Now although this is not unfrequently the case, yet it is not invariably so; and every observing physician must have been aware of cases, in which, in this way, the article has been unnecessarily and injuriously continued. In bowel complaints, under the idea of altering the secretions, it has frequently, no doubt, helped to keep up the very intestinal irritation which it was given to correct. In other cases it has developed the latent tendency to other diseases, such as Scrofula, Phthisis Pulmonalis, etc. In adults we know this to be very often the case. How much more likely is all this to happen in the young infant."

"Mercury should be administered with great caution, in cases where a child has been sick for a considerable length of time, and when the strength of the child has been very much reduced. In this state of constitutional depression, a single cathartic dose of calomel sometimes proves fatal. We think we have seen more than one case, in which a child has been irretrievably prostrated under these circumstances, under the false impression that calomel is an innocent purgative to a child.

The too common practice of giving calomel



as an ordinary purge, on all occasions, is certainly unjustifiable. From the facility with which it may be given, it is unquestionably resorted to in a great number of cases, where it is unnecessary, and in a great number where it positively does harm. The misfortune is, that its use is not limited to an occasional dose, but it is too often given in every slight indisposition of the child. Now, in this way, there can be no question that the use of it has laid the foundation for the ruin of the constitutions of thousands."

We will not weary our readers, by quotations from other allopathic authors, on the same subjects. Dr. Beck's Work is the latest, and the best. He presents enough of facts, to show that in the absence of a therapeutic law, for the administration of Opium, Tartar Emetic and Mercury; (and he does not pretend that such a law exists in his school;) their use at all times, and under all circumstances, is too hazardous; proving thereby, that the Physicians of that school act, as if human health and life, were of little value or importance.

### DRUG DISEASES.

It will require faithfulness, and much labor to convince the people, that large doses of drugs, however compounded, are injurious to health, and tend to shorten life. There is no subject, probably, about which, there is so little correct reasoning, as the application of remedial agents to diseases. "A dose of Calomel" says one, "always puts me right." "I am subject to bilious attacks" says another, "and I am compelled to take calomel or blue pill, which invariably causes me to feel better. Every physician, is familiar with such remarks; and they remind us of a person, who advocated the use of brandy as a medicine; "I have," said he, "drank it daily, for the last twenty-four years, and nothing else relieves me." Indeed sir, we replied, you have persevered astonishingly, in the use of your medicine, but it has not cured you yet, and most likely, you are at this moment further from a healthy state, than you were twenty-four years ago. We have known many calomel and blue pill eaters, but have never known one in health. The thing is impossible.

None of the *causes* of disease, are so inimi-

cal to life—as drugs. This fact is stamped upon the minds of men generally. Who that wishes to die quickly, will go into an intermittent fever miasm, or that of yellow fever, or even that of cholera? No one thinks of such agents, to effect suicide. But the work of death can be accomplished quickly, by a small quantity of arsenic, or corrosive mercury, or prussic acid, or opium, or some other drug, as every one knows.

Drugs induce diseases peculiar to themselves; and although these diseases resemble those from other causes, yet they are always much more severe. When a drug disease, and a natural one, meet in the same organ of the human body, death must be the consequence, sooner or later.

Take a clearly marked case of diseased liver, and administer mercury, until its specific effects are produced, and although there may be a seeming favorable change in the affection; yet, a cure is not effected, as hundreds can testify. Often we meet with cases of liver disease, quite incurable on account of a mercurial disease, which has fixed itself in that organ in connection with the original disturbance.

Look at those, in whom symptoms of incipient phthisis were recognised; and who took mercury, or quinine, or iodine, or hydriodate of potash, or sulphur, or phosphorus, or hydrocyanic acid, in quantities sufficient to induce the pathogenesis of these drugs; and how soon, how very soon, did consumption become developed in an incurable form. The unscientific allopathic practice, and the large dose homœopathic practice, do immense mischief in those, predisposed to tubercular disease.

Take cases of Rheumatism, where mercury has been given to salivation. The Rheumatism seems to yield, and for awhile the patient is free of pain; but his looks and actions to the experienced eye, indicate any thing but health. After a few weeks, or at most a few months, pains come at night in the extremities, accompanied with sweat; he becomes weaker and weaker; medicine affords not even a mitigation of his sufferings, except large doses of opium, or some of its preparations; which, relieves the pain, but increases the sweat, and in this respect joins with the mercurial disease, and emaciation and debility set in fearfully; and finally an organic injury takes place, usually of the lungs, and the scene is soon closed by death: and the



Doctor's certificate reads, "died of consumption." Most of the thousands of incurable chronic diseases, have been manufactured of natural and drug diseases in combination. These may go on together in the human system, and terrible are their effects, especially so, when the drugs happen to be homœopathic to the original disease.

Hahnemann uttered a great truth, when he said ; the smallest dose of a remedy is the most suitable. Reason ; founded on the therapeutic law, and experience, establishes this doctrine. The most brilliant cures of which homœopathy can boast, were affected by the smallest doses ; and these cures, in most instances, took place without sensible affects of the remedies, hence, the importance of the rule,—not to repeat the medicine, while the patient is improving. Diseases yield to the remedy oftener without, than with a medicinal aggravation ; this is experience, in every day practice, and shows that the smallest dose is the best. The smallest dose of a drug, cannot induce a medicinal disease of sufficient intensity to do harm to the organism by itself or in union with the natural disease ; at the same time, it is sufficiently potent, to change dynamic derangements of the human system, when brought within the law *similia similibus curantur*. It is to our mind, almost unaccountable, how any one accustomed to reason, should acknowledge the law of cure, and reject the smallest doses as the most suitable. For example ; a decided case of inflammation of the stomach, would probably, indicate *Arsenic* as the remedy. Would any sane man, give it in drop doses of Fowler's solution, or of the 1st, 2d or 3d triturations of the homœopathic preparations ? We doubt if any one would do so. The very first dose would be of the 30th attenuation ; and in this day of high potencies, probably the 200th would be the choice. These last would cure the disease in a few hours ; whilst the former with the exception perhaps of the 3d trituration, would not only fail to cure, but would aggravate the case, and destroy life. It is not reasonable to assume, that because other diseases are less violent, therefore we can play upon them, with large and repeated doses of drugs, with exemption from injury. Human bodies are full of testimony to the contrary. Most chronic diseases in which homœopathic physicians are consulted, have been previously medicated, and thereby many of them are rendered incurable. Numerous instances,

where there was a hereditary predisposition to phthisis pulmonalis, and the incipient symptoms present, but no previous medication, have yielded to a few doses of the appropriate remedy in the 30th attenuation. We have known permanent cures of this disease, by the smallest doses of medicine, even where there were, emaciation, debility, and a hacking cough ;—three things, when existing together, signify the presence of phthisis pulmonalis—but there had been no previous medication by large doses.

In other cases of the same disease, where much medicine has been taken, although it was idle to look for a cure ; but even here, the smallest doses of the homœopathic medicine would palliate the sufferings, and occasionally keep the disease in check for years. An instance of this kind happened in our own practice ; where life was protracted for nearly twelve years, with the presence of the clearest evidence of phthisis. The medicines administered, always relieved the urgent symptoms. Previously to our attendance, this patient had been twice salivated by mercury, for her chest affection. As evidence of the curative power of the smallest doses, we will mention another case, which was pronounced incurable beyond all question, by five allopathic and three homœopathic practitioners, ourself among the number ; but even this case in about one year, was actually permanently cured by Sulphur and Phosphorus in the 30th, 200, 800 and 2000 attenuations. This case, was a merchant of this city, it is now three years since, and we defy the closest scrutiny to detect any vestige of disease in him. It was as absolute a cure as we ever saw. This gentleman had never taken Mercury or any other medicine, except a few doses of Cinchona some fifteen years ago. Here was one of the most striking instances of the curative power of the smallest doses, in a usually fatal disease ; but there was no drug disease, to act in conjunction with the natural one ; if there had been, we do not doubt, he would have died.

The sum of this article is ; that drugs, as usually administered in large doses, always tend to injure health, and destroy life.

That chronic diseases are often made so by drugs ; and a large proportion of such, are thereby rendered incurable.

That the smallest doses of the homœopathic preparations of medicines, are sufficiently



potent, to palliate sufferings, or to effect cures, and are not liable to do harm to the organism.

*Experiments made to ascertain the Prophylactic Properties of Belladonna.*

In 1812, a fatal epidemic of scarlatina reigned in the district of Hilschenbach, in the duchy of Berg. Dr. Schenk was requested to give his assistance as a medical man, and administered belladonna, to 525 persons. Of these, 522 were preserved. The three who were attacked with scarlet fever, were a mother and her two children, who had only taken the medicine four times, and had been much exposed to the contagion. As Dr. Schenk was desirous of carefully testing the prophylactic virtues of belladonna, he wrote to Hahnemann for directions. Hahnemann sent him three grains of carefully prepared extract, which were to be triturated in a small mortar, with an ounce of distilled water: to this an ounce of distilled water and an equal quantity of alcohol was to be added. A drop of this was to be added to 3 ounces of distilled water and an ounce of alcohol. In this form it was to be given, the dose being one drop to children under nine years, and two drops to those above that age, every three or four days.

Rhodus, in an epidemic in Altenkinden, gave perfect immunity to all the individuals to whom he administered this substance.—Hufeland, in noticing the statement of Rhodus, says: "I am also acquainted with a quarter in which, during the prevalence of a very severe scarlet fever, the preservative of Hahnemann was tried, and where all who tried it were protected from the disease. The fact is worthy of the greatest attention, and deserves to be frequently tested; for to allow ourselves to be prejudiced by the circumstance of the minute dose, would be to forget that we are treating of dynamic effects—effects upon a living body, which no one can appreciate by pounds or grains." (*Hufeland's Journal*, May 1812.)

Gumpert, physician at Posen, in an epidemic in 1817, preserved his 4 children, and 20 families, amounting to about 80 individuals. Two persons, were, however, attacked, but very mildly. In one, the belladonna had only been used for some days; in the other case, the disease declared itself in the second

week of the employment of the belladonna. Gumpert senior states in a report to the government, that he prevented the introduction of the epidemic into several villages, by administering the medicine continuously at the proper time. He remarked that, in those villages where the epidemic had already appeared, the employment of this substance rendered the scarlatina very mild. In the district where he practices, the public have as much confidence in it as in vaccination, and the local authorities are ordered to furnish gratis this medicine. The dose employed by the Gumperts was about a tea-spoonful morning and evening of a solution of one grain of extract of belladonna, in four ounces of orange water, and one of alcohol. (*Biblioth. Med.* t. lxxv. p. 114.)

In the very fatal epidemics of 1817, 1818, and 1819, Berndt, physician at Custrin, made use of two preparations of *Belladonna*, in the one there was 2 grains of the extract to an ounce of cinnamon water; in the other 3 grains. The dose varied from 2 to 12 drops morning and evening. His trials gave the following results. Out of 192 children who were constantly exposed to the contagion, and who took the first preparation, 14 were attacked, and 181 preserved.

With the second preparation, given to a large number of individuals, similarly situated, he preserved them all.

The few who contracted the scarlatina had the disease very mildly. (*Hufeland's Journal*, July 1820.)

Dr. Muhrbeck of Demmin, (Western Pomerania) says, "It is now seven years since I employed *belladonna* as a prophylactic against scarlet fever, and always with equal success.

Every time that the fever showed itself in a family, I administered *belladonna* to all the persons exposed to the contagion, being careful to continue it until the entire desquamation of the patients affected with the fever. I also used the same preservative in houses where it had not as yet appeared, and I can state, from an experience of seven years, that all who took the *belladonna* were preserved from the scarlet fever."

The dose employed by Dr. Muhrbeck was to children, 1 to 5 drops, and to adults 5 to 10, four times a day, of a solution of 2 grains of *bell.* to an ounce of water. (*Revue Medicale*, t. ii. p. 381.)

One of the authors whose observations are the best calculated to prove the prophylactic



efficacy of *belladonna* is Dr. Dusterberg of Warbourg. In three consecutive epidemics, this practitioner preserved from contagion all the individuals who made use of this remedy, although they were allowed to visit and keep company with the sick. He therefore regards this practice as certain a prophylactic as vaccination. To be more certain of his results, Dusterberg made a still more conclusive experiment; he chose, in each family submitted to the prophylactic treatment, a child who had not taken *belladonna*; all the children thus excepted were attacked by the contagion. Dusterberg adds, it is true that several other children, who had only used the remedy for four or five days, were also attacked, but so feebly that the only trace of the scarlatina was the subsequent desquamation. Among several of those who were preserved, there appeared an eruption a little analogous to scarlatina, but unattended by fever, which was only the effect of the *belladonna* observed by Hehnemann. (*Revue Medicale*, 1824, t. ii, p. 371, *art. de M. Martini*.)

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ERIE, PA., Feb. 6th, 1849.

DR. S. R. KIRBY,

Dear Sir:—Reading, as I so often do, accounts in your journal of the increasing success, and progress of Homœopathy in every section of the world, cheers me on, in the path I have chosen, as one in which I can most benefit my fellow men.

Spending, as I did, some four years, in swallowing and attempting to assimilate the crude doses of allopathic knowledge to be found in the library of a New England country physician, my understanding was confused and my heart turned against such labyrinthian wanderings, and now until the clear light of truth from Hahnemann's *Organon* shone full upon me, did I see clearly the path that lies before every true physician of mankind. Even then, when fully "under conviction," I was unaware of the great spread of this truth. I saw its "divinity" and embraced it. I welcomed it as a messenger from heaven.

How many of those in pursuit of medical knowledge are ignorant of the universality of Hahnemann's doctrine. Every day we hear wise professional men gravely asserting that homœopathy is on the decline in Europe, and many other such expressions, men, too, who never looked into a homœopathic author or journal.

I commenced the practice of homœopathy

in this borough nearly three years ago, and during that time have witnessed the gradual, but sure increase of its popularity. Until now, out of a population of 6000, I can count for it the patronage of the best families of the place. Those who think and investigate for themselves, and do not take everything their doctors tell them for law.

It would be needlessly trespassing on your time and patience for me to detail any of the numerous cases of different forms of disease, that have occurred in my practice. Yet I am strongly tempted to make mention of a case of "Cancer of the Uterus," which I have treated homœopathically, and with every indication of a permanent cure. Although the diagnosis of this disease is attended with some difficulty without the aid of the speculum. Yet in this case the symptoms were too well marked to have any doubts on the subject.

There was the peculiar complexion and appearance of the surface which characterized the cancerous diathesis. Several of the family had suffered from scirrhus diseases, before her, and a great-grandparent had died from a similar affection. Some of the prominent symptoms were, great prostration and debility, not being able to sit longer than fifteen or twenty minutes, at a time. Walking and sitting brought on palpitation of the heart and spasms of the diaphragm. Jarring as by another person walking heavily in the room, caused great anguish and pain, through the pelvic region. A constant discharge of purulent matter from the vagina. Cutting pains extending to the loins and down the thighs. Tuberculus condition of the cervix of uterus. Burning, during urinating, alternate constipation and diarrhœa. Aggravation of all the symptoms, at menstrual periods which were comparatively regular, &c. Only one of the several allopathists who had treated this case, had pronounced it cancer. This case had been treated, with large doses of Fowler's Solution of Arsenic, among other remedies used. Duration of disease nearly three years. The remedies I used, were Arsenicum, China and Sepia, high attenuations, and here let me bear witness to the antidotal effects of the high potencies to the poisoning of the crude drugs. No remedy exerted a more beneficial influence on the above case than arsenic. Length of time under homœopathic treatment was about 16 months. Patient free from all the above symptoms, and enabled to walk several miles. As I



have occupied space enough in this letter I will close. Hoping and looking for the universal spread of truth.

I remain very respectfully,

NELSON SEYMOUR, M. D.

From Quarterly Homœopathic Journal.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN RUSSIA.

Homœopathy has spread, and is spreading in this country more extensively than in almost any other. This is principally owing to the favor it found early, in the eyes of the numerous nobility. The cities have their quota or physicians of course, but in no country of Europe is there such a scarcity of physicians in the interior, as in Russia. Even in the provinces immediately adjoining, and between Moscow and St. Petersburg, for hundreds of miles, no physician can be found, although the districts are pretty well peopled.

Of course the old women play an important part, and do incalculable mischief by the use of mercury, zinabar, vitriol and nitric acid, as I have had opportunities to witness. Consequently, the nobility have introduced homœopathy in their domestic practice; the more wealthy engaging homœopathic physicians to take care of the serfs, the others dealing out the pellets themselves, according to domestic guides. Much as I condemn lay practice as a general thing, in these cases I consider it a blessing, because if no physician can be had, it is better that the nobles should administer our medicines from their family medicine chest, than calomel, opium, Dovers' powders, &c., as they formerly did. The number of landed proprietors who are thus changing their system is greatly increasing every year, a fact which is evident from the large quantities of homœopathic medicines that are constantly being sent into the country by the homœopathic drug-stores in St. Petersburg and Moscow. But not only the intrinsic value of the system, and the brilliant results it has achieved, have caused it to spread so widely over Russia: the very little persecution it has received has had a great deal to do with it. More or less it has of course met with opposition from alopaths, but as government did not choose to support them in their crusade, they continue the war only in an underhand manner.

In the country then, homœopathy is wholly dependant on the nepotism of the nobility.

The serf can neither read nor write, and therefore, it cannot be said that the practice is popular among the lower orders; they take whatever their masters bid them take. Another reason why the practice has been so generally adopted on the estates, is to be found in the exceedingly simple, primitive mode of life led by the peasant, which affords the medicines to afford a fair chance to exercise their curative virtues.

In the cities, there is a different state of things; several large cities are without a homœopathic physician, though none without amateur practitioners. In St. Petersburg, Moscow and Riga, homœopathy has made most rapid strides, particularly in the Capital and though as yet it cannot compete with Vienna it soon will. If I tell you that one druggist here, puts up 18000 prescriptions annually you may get some idea of the extent of homœopathic practice here.

As in all countries, so here also, the educated classes of society chiefly, are the patrons of the system, and contribute towards its spread. It is really incomprehensible how so many physicians who are so well educated, who are honest, and are very intelligent, turn their faces away from homœopathy merely because of the small doses determined not to investigate the system. Did not Dr. Seidlitz, an eminent physician, when in a private family, a splendid cure homœopathy was proved to him *ad oculus*, cover his eyes with his hands, and run away exclaiming, "I will not see anything, I will know nothing!"

In St. Petersburg, one-half of a female hospital is under the charge of a homœopathic physician, Dr. Stender. The minister of the Interior wished to place the whole under his hands, but the Dr. desired the present arrangement for the sake of comparison of the two methods of treatment.

Government has determined to make official investigation of the superiority of homœopathy; trustworthy witnesses are to attest the results, and in the medical department of the ministry, a programme has been drawn up which I will duly send you, together with the results obtained.

Government throws no obstacles whatever into the practice of homœopathy; it has licensed the sale of homœopathic medicines, and amongst the medical councillors, who compose the medical board in the ministry of the Interior, a homœopathist has been appointed.



Homer, N. Y., Feb. 29, 1849.

FRIEND KIRBY,

Enclosed I send my subscription for your valuable journal and solicit its continuance. Our cause is onward and upward, and must prevail. The practice in this vicinity is still on the increase and new proofs are every day arising of the efficiency and truth of Nature's established law, "*similia similibus curantur*." I send you a history hastily drawn up, of a case which had been a subject of some note for a few weeks past.

The patient, an infant, 6 months old, was when ten weeks old, attacked with symptoms of pneumonia, which lasted two or three days and became better. Yet on raising the child it manifested dyspnœa and suffocation, which condition it remained in some days, when it was attacked on Sunday with vomiting. On Tuesday, following, at 3 P. M. attacked with convulsions. Spasms and convulsions continued until Monday following, when there commenced an intermission which continued one week, after which vomiting again recurred, and continued, notwithstanding the faithful application of all the allopathic means for seven or eight days, when she was again attacked with convulsions which lasted four or five days. This frightful condition of things continued some two or three weeks, and allopathic prescriptions were being used, and the same accession and remission alternated until the physician told the family that nothing more could be done for the child, and that its death might hourly be expected, as the child had become frightfully emaciated, when a homœopathic physician then visiting in the vicinage was summoned to the rescue. It not being convenient for him to see the child that day, he heard a relation of its condition by the father and decided to send medicine.

From the description given by the father, a farmer, although the attending physician had admitted that he could not discover any seat for the disease; he conjectured that there must be a cause for all those effects, and that cause was at work on some of the cerebral membranes, and sent the patient Bell. 30, promising to see the child on some fitting day. From that day, the symptoms abated rapidly and obviously, and on Feb. 3d, I visited the patient for the first time, though I had sent the medicines on the descriptions of its friends.

Feb. 3d. I find the head, especially the foetal region exceedingly enlarged; the Ante-

rior Fontanelle open to a very unnatural extent. Coronal Sutures open on either side an inch. Sagittal Sutures at posterior edge of anterior fontanelle, open 3-4 of an inch. Distance from top of ear on one side to top on the other, 11 inches. Circumference of head an inch above the ears, 19 inches. I am thus particular in describing this case for the reason that now the child from the repeated use of Bell. and Sulph. has become fleshy and has had good appetite; bowels in good condition; which seems to prove that the disease has arrested, although such evidence of former organic lision is present. No amelioration of the condition of the patient, took place until after the administration of Bell. then the improvement was decided, and thus far has been permanent. W. R. BROWN, M. D.

The above interesting case, would have appeared long ago; but it was mislaid. This is our apology to Dr. Brown for the delay.

ED.

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One more number will complete the present volume of this journal. The circulation of the "American Journal of Homœopathy," is equal to any medical journal in the country. And new subscribers have been received almost daily for the last few weeks, for the 4th volume which will be published on the 1st of May next.

On account of inattention on our part, in not adhering to the terms, of payment in advance, several hundreds of subscribers are yet in arrears for the past volumes. This ought not so to be; and as some few have taken offence, at our sending bills by mail, although we had no other means at command, to remind such of their indebtedness, we intend to remedy this evil by a strict adherence to the terms. Let it, therefore be understood, that the 4th volume, not even the 1st number will be mailed to any one, unless the subscription be previously paid. The amount is so small, that we do not doubt, that subscribers will most cheerfully comply with this reasonable arrangement. We have a few copies of Vols. 1, 2, and 3 at \$1 each. Whoever desires information of the doctrines and practice of homœopathy cannot obtain it, in a more concise form than in these volumes. Orders may be sent by mail or otherwise, to the editor, 762 Broadway.



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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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NO. 12.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, APRIL, 1849.

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## INCONSISTENCY OF THE OPPOSITION TO HOMŒOPATHIA IN AMERICA.

Physicians of the homœopathic school are compelled to stand on the defensive. The aggression was from physicians of the allopathic school; and attacks from that quarter continue, and it seems, that in proportion to the spread of the true art in healing, so is the severity of the assault. Those of our school, are charged with a vicious propensity to do harm to the profession: and this is made the basis of the often repeated assertion that "they have left the profession." The absurdity of such a charge, and of such an inference is so plain, it is not requisite to spend time, to prove the falsity of the one, or the harmless folly of the other.

The allopathic school in this country, has placed itself in a position before the public, which we deeply regret. Its course has been incompatible with the spirit of our govern-

ment, and with the spirit of the present age. The fundamental error into which it has fallen is, the adoption of the medical *ethics* of England and France; and thus the attempt to establish a sort of aristocracy in the profession. The controlling influence, however, being in the hands of a few, the term oligarchy is the most appropriate. We do not think we misrepresent, when we assert that this has been virtually, the form of government of the medical profession in America. Long before the introduction of homœopathia into this country, there was a restlessness among the members of the profession, and it could not be said that harmony existed in it; yet, the oligarchy was enabled to present a tolerable outside show of peace, by means of a printed code of *ethics*, copied almost *verbatim* from that of Gregory of Edinburgh: prepared for, introduced into, and carried through the medical society of this city by a foreigner, who possessed in an eminent degree the spirit of the European aristocracy. This code did not work well. Soon, complaints were made of its violation. Trials took place before the society, and as the records will show, one, who was then a young man, but who now ranks among our most distinguished physicians, was subjected to a trial on a trivial charge, and was judged guilty. He utterly refused to pay the penalty, and we doubt if he has had respect since, for any system of rules for regulating the actions and manners of physicians, except what every gentleman finds in the disposition of his own mind.

The above code was formally or virtually adopted by medical societies throughout the union. After a while, the junior members perceived, that every movement that had been made in the societies, tended to promote the interest of a few of the senior, and prejudiced that of the junior members. Every law enacted by the states, to regulate medical

practice, had a similar effect, and finally it was urged, that the interest of all concerned would be promoted by the repeal of all laws on the subject, and allow each practitioner to rely upon his own merits, and trust to the intelligence of the people to determine the difference in skill. Some of the states pursued this course; but in those where legal enactments still exist, they are scarcely regarded. In connection with these proceedings, and this state of things, a few, who had the means, visited Europe, and came back, loud in praises of the European schools of medicine; and such was the commendation, both in public and in private, that those of us, who were compelled to remain at home, doubted if we had been, more than half educated in our own colleges, although many of the professors were educated abroad.

Foreigners perceiving the high estimation those were held in who possessed diplomas from Paris, London, or Edinburgh, put on airs peculiar to their country; and with foreign diplomas, and foreign manners, many of them worked their way to the pockets of the people. American physicians soon noticed the advantages foreigners possessed over themselves; and by way of protection, numbers visited Europe and took a look at her medical schools and hospitals, and after returning, pretended to be richly laden, with large quantities of medical knowledge from Paris, and other places. These, directly or indirectly, spoke disparagingly of our own schools, and those educated in them, until few could command general confidence in a city practice, who had not seen those wonderful medical establishments in Europe, of which they had heard so much, and out of which, it was thought, no one could be qualified to practice the art of medicine safely. To such a pitch was this carried, that the relatives and friends of a physician who had been to Europe, took pains, to report their opinion of his transcendent abilities, on account of having walked through the hospitals of Paris, and of London. And whenever they happened to visit the patients of other physicians, they would be sure to urge the necessity of calling Dr. A., or B., or C., for he had been to Europe, and had seen the great hospitals of that country. And many truly skillful practitioners have been discharged from attendance upon their patients, by such an influence; and many a family, has had cause to mourn on account of it.

This state of things kept up the oligarchy, and no one was found bold enough, to oppose its power, for it should be noticed as a remarkable fact, that most of the work of the different societies was of a political character, and little or nothing was done for the science and art of medicine.

In 1830, a fair review of Hahnemann's *Organon* appeared in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, and although, it must have been read by hundreds of the profession, yet only a very small number perceived, that if the clear principles therein expressed, should by experiment be proved true, a complete revolution in the healing art would necessarily follow. From 1825 to 1835 there were some fifty practitioners of homœopathia in this country; yet the allopathic school, did not think of denouncing them; but on the contrary, in 1833 or 4, the Medical Society of the city and county of New York, at an annual meeting, at which there were present nearly two hundred members, unanimously elected Samuel Hahnemann an honorary member; and the Society's diploma was sent to him, with a letter by the corresponding secretary, which were duly acknowledged by Hahnemann; and he held this relation to the Medical Society of the city and county of New York, at the time of his death. But, when James Johnson, M. D., Physician extraordinary to the King of England, denounced homœopathia in 1835, in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, the entire allopathic school in America, under the direction of the oligarchy, responded to Johnson; and then for the first time it had a dim view of its danger. Its leaders being ignorant of Hahnemann's principles and practice, and having full faith in everything that came from abroad, especially in whatever emanated from the King's Physician; for a while, they contented themselves and most of those they governed, with Johnson's statement, that "Homœopathia is going down in Europe." But whatever may have been going on in the old country, to the credit of our country be it spoken, a large number of American physicians saw, there was but one method of ascertaining the truth of the new system of medicine; and, instead of being influenced by the denunciations of homœopathia by foreign journals, they tested the practice in the treatment of diseases, and finding, what was said of it, by its author, fully confirmed, they openly and fearlessly avowed their confidence in it, regardless of



the King's Physician in England or the oligarchy in America. In doing this, they knew, they would violate no obligation to the profession, nor infringe the rights or privileges of any one: they did not seek invidious distinctions by designating themselves "Homœopaths" and their opponents "Allopaths." This was the work of the allopathic school, and was first introduced by the English Journals, and adopted by that school in this country. It was intended as a word of reproach, but having failed in that; it rebounds with a tremendous force upon the heads of those, who meant to crush the truth by a word.

Homœopathia found advocates, and continued to spread. Her friends out of the profession, were the wealthy, the intelligent, and the most influential of our citizens. These facts were so prominent, that the allopathic school, itself, actually perceived them, and was troubled. All sorts of means were employed to arrest her progress. Every Medical Journal, of that school, in the country was out upon her in full cry. Old Societies were broken up, and new ones formed, with the avowed object of crushing homœopathia.—Personal attacks were made publicly and privately upon her practitioners; and it was again and again gravely stated, what no one of any observation would believe possible ever to happen "that none of the rulers had faith in homœopathia." All professional, and even social intercourse nearly ceased; and the monstrous pride of the allopathic school which had been accumulating for ages, would not permit it to look, but with superlative contempt and withering scorn, upon its rival. It has disgraced itself by some of its acts, particularly has it done so, by appropriating without acknowledgement, a few indispensable remedies, the use of which it learned from the school of homœopathia.

The truths taught by Hahnemann have so gained the confidence of physicians, and the people, that the character of the opposition is changing. This does not arise from any shrewdness of allopathic physicians, but it is manufactured naturally enough from an admission of detached portions of homœopathia; and mixing these with allopathia in such proportions as suits the fancy of each practitioner. This is designated *eclecticism*, and the practitioners of it are termed *eclectics*. These disclaim all exclusiveness, contend for great liberality, and good feeling; and claim the

liberty of dipping into every dish by whomsoever prepared, and taking therefrom, whatever agrees with their notions, regardless of any principle whatsoever; for an *eclectic*, can have no fixed principles. The true friends of homœopathia, must guard against this most deceitful foe of medical truth. It is a doctrine taught in almost all our medical colleges, and the hundreds of yearly graduates come forth from these institutions, more or less imbued with *eclecticism*. And because of this, in a short period, the present generation of junior members of the profession, will seek an alliance with those of the homœopathic school. This has been done in many instances, all over Europe; and already, to some extent in this country. The moment the "Quarterly Homœopathic Journal" appeared, as an advocate of *eclecticism*, under the name of homœopathia; an allopathic journal of large circulation expressed its delight; and when the Editor was removed from among us, that same journal sought an obituary of him, in which the liberality, of *eclecticism* was prominent, although the term was not used; and gave its readers to understand, that if all homœopaths were as liberal as the late Editor of the Quarterly, the hatchet would be buried, and strife cease.

In view of the state of things, as above described, it is the positive duty of genuine homœopaths to adhere strictly to the established principles of their system; these will sustain us, in any disease, if we unwaveringly rely upon them; but any deviation under any pretence, however plausible, will certainly in the end, disappoint the hopes of the practitioner and of the sick, and retard the progress of a true system of medicine.

## LETTER TO HUFELAND,

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow.

Dearest Friend!—It is not because of your greatness, Hufeland!—but because of the irresistible attraction of your excellent heart, that I feel so much pleasure in exposing to you my whole course of thought and conviction, as I have long wished to do to the public.

Eighteen years have elapsed since I quitted the beaten path in medicine. It was agony

to me to walk always in darkness, with no other light than that which could be derived from books, when I had to heal the sick, and to prescribe, according to such or such an hypothesis concerning diseases, substances which owed their places in the *Materia Medica* to an arbitrary decision. I could not conscientiously treat the unknown morbid conditions of my suffering brethren by these unknown medicines, which being very active substances, may (unless applied with the most rigorous exactness, which the physician cannot exercise, because their peculiar effects have not yet been examined) so easily occasion death, or produce new affections and chronic maladies, often more difficult to remove than the original disease. To become thus the murderer or the tormentor of my brethren was to me an idea so frightful and overwhelming, that, soon after my marriage, I renounced the practice of medicine, that I might no longer incur the risk of doing injury, and I engaged exclusively in chemistry and in literary occupations.

But I became a father: serious diseases threatened my beloved children,—my flesh and blood. My scruples redoubled when I saw that I could afford them no certain relief.

Where could I find assistance, sure assistance, with our theory of medicines, which rest only on vague observations; often even on pure conjectures: with these innumerable doctrines regarding diseases which compose our nosologies. He only can remain calm in the midst of such a labyrinth, who believes, without examination, all that has been said upon the virtues of medicines, because he meets it in a hundred volumes—who regards, as so many oracles, not only the definitions of diseases given by our pathologists, but also the pretended cures of these diseases, in accordance with arbitrary theories, with which our therapeutic works are filled—who does not attribute the instances of death which take place in his practice, to the habit of aiming, blindfold (so to speak)—who does not see that he ought to accuse the uncertainty and the impotence of his art, if in his hands acute diseases are aggravated and prolonged—if chronic affections are generally obstinate;—who ascribes the whole, death and aggravation, solely to the incurable nature of the malady, the disobedience of the patient, or other similar circumstances; and whose conscience is sufficiently easy to be satisfied with such excuses, and to continue to encoun-

ter diseases viewed through the prism of his systems, with medicines hitherto imperfectly known, the action of which is not without influence on life and death.

Where, then, can sure help be found? exclaimed the sorrowing father, overwhelmed with the complaint and suffering of his dear children. Everywhere around him he beheld the darkness and dreariness of a desert: no consolation for his oppressed heart.

Eight years of practice, pursued with the most scrupulous attention, had already convinced me of the impotence of the ordinary method of cure. I knew too well, from my own experience, what might be expected from the precepts of Sydenham and of Hoffman—of Boerhave and of Gaubius—of Spall—of Quarin—of Cullen, and of Dehaen. Perhaps, however, as many great men have already said, it is not in the nature of medicine itself to attain a higher degree of certainty.

Blasphemous, shameful thought! I exclaimed with indignation. What? could not the infinite wisdom of the Spirit which animates the universe, produce means of allaying the suffering caused by diseases which, nevertheless, it has permitted to afflict mankind?

Is it possible that the sovereign paternal goodness of HIM, whom no name can worthily designate; who provides liberally for the wants even of animalculæ invisible to us; who sheds with profusion life and well-being through all the creation—should be capable of an act of tyranny, and not have willed that man, made after his image, should be able, with the divine inspiration which penetrates and animates him, to find, in the immensity of created things, means suited to deliver his brethren from suffering often worse than death itself? Could HE, the Father of all, behold with indifference the martyrdom to which diseases condemn the best beloved of his creatures, and not permit the genius of man (which, however, makes all things possible) to discover an easy and sure method of contemplating them under their real aspect, and of examining medicines to learn in what case each of them may be useful—may furnish a real and certain assistance? I had rather renounce all the systems in the world than admit such a blasphemous idea.

No! there is a God—a good God!—who is goodness and wisdom itself! There must, therefore, be some method of his own appoint-



ment, of contemplating diseases under their true aspect, and of curing them with certainty—a method which shall not be hidden in endless abstractions, and in purely imaginary hypotheses.

But why has this method not been discovered during the twenty or five-and-twenty centuries in which men have called themselves physicians? Because it is too near us, and too easy: because to attain it there is no need of brilliant sophisms, or seducing hypotheses.

Well, said I to myself, since there must be a sure and certain method of cure, as there is a God, the wisest and best of beings, I will quit the barren field of ontological explanations; I will listen no longer to arbitrary opinions, with whatever art they may be reduced into systems; I will no longer bow before the authority of celebrated names; but I will seek near at hand, where it ought to be found, this method of which no one has thought—because it was too simple, because it did not appear sufficiently learned, because it was not surrounded with crowns for the masters in the art of constructing hypotheses, and scholastic abstractions. It could be suited only to me who would not, to comply with a system, or to flatter a teacher, expose my children to the danger of death, with which they were threatened by the ordinary practice. Hence I derived no vanity from the little book in which I made known this method (The Medicine of Experience.) It sufficed me to have found it, to have presented it to my brethren under the simple forms which belong to truth, and to have opened to them a new path, as far as it is possible to do so by writing, that is to say, without demonstration, at the bed of the patient in an hospital.

My own entrance on this new path was by the following train of reflections. By what means, said I, shall I ascertain for what morbid states medicines have been created? Shall I employ *experimenta per mortales* in the diseases themselves! Oh, no! the five and twenty centuries during which this way alone has been followed, shew plainly enough that such experiments lead only to illusion, and never to certainty.

I must observe, thought I, the manner in which medicinal substances act upon the body of man, in the tranquil state of health. The changes which they then occasion do not certainly take place in vain; they must signify something, for otherwise, why should

they be effected? Perhaps this is the only language in which the substances can express to the observer the end of their existence; perhaps the modifications and the sensations which they produce in the organism of men in health, when their voice is not stifled by that of morbid symptoms, are the only language by which they can reveal to the unprejudiced observer their special tendency, the positive and pure energy in virtue of which they act upon the body, that is to say, destroy the harmony which constitutes health, and re-establish it when it has been troubled by disease. How, I continued, could medicines produce what they accomplish in diseases, otherwise than in virtue of this property which they possess of modifying the body of man in health, *i. e.* of producing disease? Certainly, they can cure only in this manner.

But if the effects which medicines produce on diseases, depend solely on the property in virtue of which they work changes (disease) in the healthy man, it follows that that substance, among the symptoms of which is found the aggregate of the characteristic symptoms of any malady whatever, ought to have the power of certainly curing this malady, since there is a very great analogy between the accidents to which this last gives rise, and those which itself excites in the healthy man. *It follows, in a word, that medicines can cure only diseases analogous to those which they are themselves capable of producing, and that they occasion only those morbid effects which they have the power of curing in diseases.*

If I do not deceive myself, I continued, it must be so. For otherwise, how should it be possible that the tertian and quotidian fever, which I radically cured some weeks ago by one or two drops of the tincture of cinchona, should offer symptoms almost identical with those which, yesterday and to-day, I have observed on myself, when, for experiment, I have taken in small quantities 4 drachms of good cinchona, being in sound health? After this, I set myself to collect the symptoms which had been observed, from time to time, to result from medicines introduced into the stomachs of healthy men, and which had been casually mentioned in books. But as I obtained, in this manner, only a very small number of instances, I began to try several medicinal substances on healthy subjects, and I observed that the symptoms they occasioned corresponded wonderfully with those of the



morbid states which they could easily and permanently cure.

I could not, then, do otherwise than regard as an incontrovertible proposition, that we ought to renounce all ontological discussion on disease, a subject for ever enigmatical,—that it is sufficient for him who desires to cure, to consider each malady as a group of symptoms and sensations, in order to be able to destroy it without resistance, with the aid of a medicinal substance capable of producing, by itself, analogous morbid symptoms in a healthy subject, always on the condition, that the patient avoids the appreciable causes of this malady, if he would have the cure permanent.

I discerned that this method of contemplating maladies, by embracing all the symptoms included in each particular case, was the only exact one, the only one likely to direct to a cure;—that the forms of disease admitted into our nosologies, *those portraits composed of detached fragments of different cases*, ought no longer to impede our forming a true idea of the diseases presented by nature, at the bed of the patient;—that therapeutic doctrines, with their imaginary indications of cure, could no longer lead the conscientious physician into error,—and that we need no longer lose ourselves in metaphysical and scholastic discussions on the first impenetrable cause of maladies, that hobby-horse of rationalism, which has never conducted to any but chimerical methods of treatment.

I discerned that the only method of cure was found without any addition on the part of man, without the least varnish of science. But this road had never yet been followed. I was obliged to venture on it alone—left to my own strength—aided only by my resources. I did so with confidence and success.

Choose the medicines according to the symptoms which repeated observation has shewn to be their natural effects on the healthy human body; give them in the case of disease which presents a group of symptoms comprised in the series of those which such or such a substance is capable of producing by itself, and you will cure the disease certainly, you will cure it easily. In other words seek the medicine which, among the symptoms excited by it in the body of a healthy man, presents most completely the aggregate of those presented by a given case of malady, and that medicine will effect the cure with certainty and ease.

This law, which I have elicited from the very nature of things, I have now followed for many years, without ever having found it necessary to revert to the ordinary medicine. For twelve years I have made no use of purgatives to evacuate the bile or mucous, no cooling drinks, no resolvents nor incisives, no antispasmodics, no sedatives, no narcotics, no irritants, no tonics, no diuretics, no sudorifics, no rubefacients nor blisters, no leeches nor cupping glasses, no cauteries;—in a word, none of those methods which the general therapeutics of different systems prescribes, to fulfil imaginary indications of cure. For a long time I have cured solely in obedience to the law of nature which I have just announced, and from which I have not deviated in a single instance.

And what has been the result? It has been what it ought to be. I would not exchange for all the most vaunted blessings of the world, the satisfaction which I have derived from this method.

In the course of these researches, which have required so many years, I have made an important discovery. I have observed that, in acting on the healthy man, *medicinal substances give rise to two opposite series of symptoms*, some of which appear immediately, or very shortly after the substance has been introduced into the stomach, or placed in contact with any part whatever; whilst others, entirely contrary, manifest themselves shortly after the disappearance of the former. *I have determined, moreover, that the only case in which the medicines afford permanent relief, is that in which there is an accordance between the symptoms occasioned during the first hours of their action on the healthy subject, and those of the disease which we would oppose*; because, then, this last is annihilated with an incredible promptitude by the very analogous malady to which the medicinal substance gives rise. This is what I call the curative or radical method, because it alone cures in a durable manner with certainty, and without bad consequences.

On the other hand, I have also observed (what it is now easy to foresee), that, following the contrary course, which is that adopted commonly by the schools (*contraria contrariis curantur*), that is to say, in opposing the primitive effects of medicines to contrary morbid symptoms, as, for example, opium to habitual sleeplessness or chronic diarrhœa, wine to an inveterate debility, purgatives to



habitual costiveness, we only obtain a palliation, an alleviation of merely a few hours, because after this time has elapsed, the second period of the medicinal action arrives, which brings the contrary of the primitive effect; *i. e.* a state analogous to that of the disease we oppose, and which consequently cannot fail to increase the disease.

Whenever the ordinary practice encounters symptoms by medicines, it does so only according to rules sanctioned by custom; *i. e.* in a palliative manner. Hitherto it has not known the curative method which I have just indicated. But this discovery is so important that, if put in practice, experience would soon teach every one that it is only in applying medicines according to the curative method (*similia similibus*) that a durable result can be obtained in a short time, and by the aid of very weak doses; whilst the palliative method, followed by all physicians without exception, can relieve only for a few hours, after which the evil re-appears more powerful than before—unless, which often happens, the physician prolong this transient amelioration for a few days, by repeating, and each time augmenting, the dose. But, on the other hand, by these strong doses of medicine, which are not curative nor homœopathic, he excites, as consecutive effects, new morbid states, which are frequently more difficult to cure than the original malady, and which not unfrequently terminate by death.

We see, without further argument, that this palliative method cannot be at all efficacious in chronic diseases, nor restore to perfect health those afflicted by them. Experience also teaches us, that hitherto no chronic affection has been cured in a short time by medicine; and if it happens that patients sometimes are re-established, this result is due to a fortunate change produced spontaneously by nature, or by a suitable medicine, which has accidentally been included among those which have been used, or by some other fortuitous circumstance.

Besides these injuries (often irreparable) which the palliative method inflicts on the health of man, it has the further inconvenience of consuming an incredible quantity of expensive medicines, which it is obliged to lavish in doses, sometimes enormously large, to produce only some appearance of a favorable result. Thus we see Jones employing, in London, 100 lbs. of cinchona in a year,

and there are physicians who annually require several pounds of opium. It is precisely the contrary with the curative method. As it requires only the least medicinal excitement promptly to extinguish an analogous morbid excitement, the necessary quantity of good medicinal substances is reduced to so small an amount, even of those in most frequent use, that I hesitate to mention even an approximation, from the fear of causing too great astonishment.

In following this method, which differs from all others, which is almost entirely opposed to them, the physician cures with surprising certainty even the most inveterate chronic maladies, and *when*, among well-known medicines, he finds one which perfectly suits the case, he accomplishes the cure in an incredibly short time, without leaving any pain, or any inconvenience.

Now, if the principal, the sole mission of the physician is, as I believe it to be, to cure diseases,—to deliver his brethren from a crowd of evils which prevent their tasting the pleasures of life,—often rendered existence insupportable,—and frequently expose their life to danger, or subvert their reason,—how can he, in whose bosom beats a heart endowed with sensibility, or burns with the smallest spark of those noble sentiments which inspire in man the desire of being useful to his fellow creatures, hesitate for a moment to choose a method infinitely better than all others, and to trample under foot the dogmata of the schools, even though they boast of a thousand years' duration? The schools teach us not to satisfy our conscience by curing men; but they teach us what we must do to present to their eyes the appearance of wisdom and depth. It is only the man devoid of energy who regards destructive prejudices as holy and inviolable, simply because they exist; the truly wise man, on the contrary, tramples them joyfully under foot, that they may give place to eternal truth, which needs not the sanction of the lapse of time, nor of the attractions of novelty or of fashion, nor of the declamations of party spirit.

It was necessary that some one should break the ice, and I have done it. The way is now open. Every attentive, zealous, and conscientious physician may freely pursue it. If the path which I discovered, while setting at defiance all prevailing prejudices, and simply contemplating nature, be as directly at variance with all the dogmata of the schools, as



were the bold sentences which Luther nailed to the Schlosskirche of Wittenberg opposed to the spirit of a crippling hierarchy, the fault lies neither with Luther's truth nor mine.

*Refute these truths, if you can, by shewing a still more efficacious, certain, and agreeable method than mine; refute them not by words, of which we have already too many.*

But if experience should prove to you, as it has done to me, that my method is the best, make use of it to save your fellow creatures, and give the glory of it to God.

And you, my dear friend! whose mild Melancthon-soul would willingly unite opposing parties,—since now, for once, the false will not blend with the true,—suffer the guileless seeker of truth, who cannot swerve from his convictions or be seduced, by glare of false and vain systems,—even though you cannot give him all your countenance,—yet suffer him hopefully to direct his earnest gaze to the dawning morning red—the harbinger of *certainly* approaching day.

#### VALUABLE ADVICE.

*The New York Journal of Medicine for March, 1849, contains an address to the Graduates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, at the commencement held March 12th, 1846. By John B. Beck, M. D., which furnishes valuable advice to young Physicians.*

We extract from that address the following, which we hope will be profitable to our readers.

“And first, and above all, let me beseech of you, not to consider, because you have gone through the round of study prescribed by this Institution, nor yet because you have received the degree of Doctor in Medicine, that your education is now completed. If you do, notwithstanding all the time and labor you have expended, you had better at once abandon the profession and undertake some different occupation. Valuable as lectures are, they are, nevertheless, to be looked upon by the student simply as the preliminary means by which he may be enabled to perfect himself afterwards in a knowledge of his profession. They are merely the guides to show him how he is to pursue the never-ending course of self-instruction which he ought to propose to himself. The instruction of others never can make a man a physician. That he must make himself—and to do it requires a kind of study and training very different from that of listening to the prelections of the lecture-room. When

you leave, therefore, this seat of learning, consider that you are merely changing the mode of your studies, and that you are now beginning a new and higher course of instruction. If you are deeply imbued with this feeling, every case that may present itself when you get into practice, will afford you ample scope for the exercise of all your faculties. The practice of medicine is not a mere matter of routine. The same disease occurring in different individuals is modified by a thousand different circumstances. The age, sex, habits of life, season of the year, climate, all exercise a controlling influence over its character, and accordingly demand a modification of the treatment. Every case, therefore, should be studied by itself, and should be made the subject of profound thought and investigation. If you pursue this course, you will find not merely that the practice of your profession is one that requires incessant study, but that it is one of surpassing interest.

“With regard to the modes of conducting your studies, so as to yield you the greatest amount of profit, let me suggest to you, in the first place, to lay it down as an invariable rule, that when you undertake the study of a subject, to do it thoroughly; and in doing this, I do not mean that you should merely acquire a knowledge of all the facts connected with it, but that you should investigate as far as possible the general principles running through these facts. There is nothing so destructive of the tone and vigor of a man's intellect, or so detrimental to his advancement in knowledge, as to rest satisfied with vague and superficial notions. When he comes to turn his supposed knowledge to practical account, every thing will be hazy and misty before him, and his action will be uncertain and inefficient. Endeavor, then, to acquire the habit of hanging on to a subject until you obtain clear and precise ideas in relation to it. Once acquired, you will find it of incalculable value. The very process of acquiring it will invigorate your understandings, and instead of retarding, as might be supposed, will accelerate with tenfold rapidity your subsequent acquisitions. Recollect that all knowledge is more or less connected, and the thorough mastery of one subject, with its facts and principles, will really aid you more in your progress than a vague and shadowy acquaintance with the whole circle of the sciences.”

“Let me recommend you to practice the art of writing. Every physician, whether he be ambitious of the honors of authorship or not, must now and then, at least, put his ideas upon paper for the purpose of being communicated to others. If he do this at all, he ought certainly to do it in such a way as not to disgrace either himself or the profession. Now, it is with writing as with every thing else. No man can do it well unless he make it a habit, and every student should, therefore, be in the daily practice of putting his thoughts upon paper. In a very short time this will impart an ease and facility which will render writing a pleasure rather than a labor. With



regard to the style which you ought to cultivate, there are three things which I would more especially urge upon your notice as eminently essential. 1. *Perfect simplicity.* By this I mean the avoidance of pedantry, bombast, and all attempts at fine writing. These are inconsistent with the dignity of science, and are as opposed to a correct style as elegance and grace are congenial to it. 2. *Perfect intelligibility.* This is a cardinal feature in a good style, without which, in the present day at least, a book will not be read. The press is too prolific of books which can be easily understood, to expect the reader to stop and spell out his way to the meaning of an author. Some men, I am aware, plume themselves not a little upon the obscurity of their style, and flatter themselves that it is an evidence of their profundity. Do not, gentlemen, envy or emulate such profundity. You will generally find it slumbering away its existence in the dusky garret of the printing shop, or, perchance, making its way into daylight through the kind offices of the trunk-maker. 3. *Perfect integrity.* By this I mean a true style, in other words, that a style should be such as not to convey a double, or an exaggerated or a lessened idea—but that it should convey “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” The importance of this feature in the style of a medical writer, must be self-evident. An erroneous idea conveyed in a medical work, either from design or inattention, may prove the source of incalculable mischief. I am the more desirous of calling your attention to this point, because the violations of it are, I fear, too frequent. Men even of upright intentions and with an honest desire after truth, not unfrequently give such a coloring to their statements as convey impressions very wide of what was, perhaps, intended, and certainly very wide of the truth. Let precision of thought and precision of language, then, characterize every thing that you write, and let the whole be conveyed in a style simple and intelligible.

“In what I have thus far suggested to you, gentlemen, I have looked upon you merely as students of your profession, and I trust no period of your lives will ever arrive when you shall divest yourselves of that character.

“But you are also to be *practitioners of medicine*, and as such your ambition of course ought to be to render yourselves distinguished and useful. To enable you to become so, permit me to make one or two suggestions.

“In the first place, cultivate the faculty of *observation*. By many, it is supposed, that this is the exclusive gift of nature and not improvable by art. Differing as men do undoubtedly in their powers in this respect, there still can be no question, that much may be done to improve them, by appropriate discipline and cultivation. To dwell upon the particular means by which this is to be accomplished would occupy too much time on the present occasion. I cannot, however, refrain from suggesting, that it is not to be done as a matter of course, merely by the multiplicity of the subjects for observation which may be presented to you. This is, indeed, the common

opinion, and the public suffrage is accordingly too apt to be given in favor of those whose opportunities are the most extensive. The physician, therefore, who sees the greatest number of patients, is generally supposed to have observed the most, and to be the most experienced. Nevertheless, this is frequently a great error, proved by every day’s experience. To have the opportunity of observing, is one thing; to observe, is another; and the observation of one case, correctly and thoroughly made, yields a richer harvest of knowledge and experience than do years of ordinary practice by an unobserving practitioner; and the history of one disease, or of the effects of a single remedy, given by the hand of a master, confers more lasting and real benefit upon the science and the world than ages of the experience of ordinary men. In fact, there is such a thing as seeing too much: and the rapidity and even hurry consequent on the attendance upon a great number of cases, is utterly fatal to that close and detailed investigation, without which observation is of no sort of value. Instead of following nature and exploring the peculiarities characterizing individual cases, every thing is viewed in the wholesale way, and remedies are prescribed accordingly. Now, it is very evident that such practice, however extensive, can never make an enlightened physician. In fact, the more he sees in this way, the less likely is he to become so. It is an interesting fact that Hippocrates practised only in small towns, not one of which, it is affirmed, was of itself able to support a physician. It is not, therefore, the mere amount of cases, or the extent of his opportunities; it is the capacity of observing and the power of extracting from each case every thing that is valuable, that forms the great physician. To the young practitioner just commencing his career, I do not know anything so truly encouraging, as the consideration of this very circumstance. During the first few years of his professional life, instead of repining at his want of business, he should recollect that this is a wise allotment, intended for his ultimate benefit. If he rightly improve the leisure he then enjoys, he has it in his power to make himself all that his highest ambition can crave.

“But, gentlemen, you will find the observation of facts of comparatively little value, unless you possess the power of *reasoning* correctly upon them, and the culture of this faculty should be another object of your ambition. When I speak of the power of reasoning, I do not mean the ability to speculate or frame theories, but I mean the power which shall enable a man to compare individual facts, and draw from them just and legitimate conclusions. Important as observation is, it is chiefly so as forming the basis of reasoning; and its being so, is the main reason why accurate observation is so invaluable. The necessity and importance of cultivating this faculty by the young practitioner is self-evident. The whole of practical medicine is, or ought to be, an exercise of this faculty, and other things being equal, just in proportion as a physician is gifted with this



talent will he become pre-eminent. As I have already stated, the practice of medicine is not a mere matter of routine. No two cases are exactly alike, and the same disease occurring in different individuals, presents itself under different forms and modifications, and in the just appreciation of these differences and modifications, and in the nice adaptation and adjustment of remedies to them, a constant exercise of the reasoning powers is called for. It is not, however, in ordinary practice that the necessity of the reasoning faculty appears most striking. To the enlightened physician, questions of grave import are continually presenting themselves, upon which he is required to give an opinion, and which, to be of any sort of value, must be the result of more or less elaborate trains of thought and reasoning.—Questions in medical jurisprudence, for example, are only to be determined in this way. In cases of this kind, mere science, however profound, mere learning, however extensive, are not sufficient. It requires the exercise and application of a severe logic to arrive at just conclusions. By the absence of this, amid all the parade of learning, juries have been misled; life and character have been jeopardized; justice has been evaded, and the professional witness disgraced.”

“There is only one other incentive which I shall offer to show the necessity of cultivating the power of close and accurate reasoning, and this is the incessant tendency which there seems to be in our profession to indulge in theories and hypotheses. From the remotest periods down to the present day, this has been the current vice of physicians. Why this has been the case, is a subject of interesting inquiry, and would lead to many important views of our science. This, however, is foreign from my present purpose. If these theories had been confined to subjects of abstract speculation alone, their consequences would have been as harmless as their textures were frail. Unfortunately, however, they have formed the basis of modes of practice, under the operation of which hundreds and thousands of human beings have been hurried into premature graves. Now, how is any correct judgment to be formed concerning the respective merits of these theories and practices except by an observing, thinking and reasoning mind, which shall be able to analyze the principles upon which they are founded as well as to detect the fallacies by which they are supported.

“Again, gentlemen, if you hope to succeed as good practitioners, cultivate a *generous love of your profession*. By this I do not mean that love of an occupation which yields a man great pecuniary rewards, nor yet that love of it which arises simply from habit or long-accustomed use. To inspire either of these requires neither learning, nor talent, nor generous feeling. I mean something nobler than this. I mean that love of your profession which shall induce you to devote all your faculties to the cultivation of it, and which

shall inspire you with the lofty ambition of signalizing yourselves in it, by improving the science and benefitting mankind. Now the only way to do this, is to consider your profession as a *learned one*. Without learning, no just conception can be formed even of the *nature* of medicine as a *science*, while the connection between principles and the application of them can never be appreciated. Hence, without this, it must be practised as a mere art or trade, and the interest taken in it can be nothing more than that taken in any ordinary occupation or labor. More than this, in the practice of medicine there are so many things positively disgusting; there is so much of actual suffering to be witnessed; so much of frailty and vice to become privy to; so much of caprice and even insult to be encountered; and besides this, so many humiliating offices to be submitted to, that were this all, no man of generous mind would be found in the ranks of the profession. Viewed, however, with the eye of philosophy, and with the cultivation which learning engenders, all these disadvantages are as nothing. It is found to be a noble science, involving subjects of the highest interest, and the most momentous import. Every practical detail is found associated with some interesting fact in relation to the animal economy, or with some important principle in the management of disease. The humblest offices rise into consequence, and everything is teeming with interest and instruction. Every fact, however trivial or apparently unimportant, calls into exercise the power of observation, and in its wide spread relations to other facts, supplies incessant materials for all the powers of thought and reason. Thus it is that the glow of enthusiasm is enkindled, without which genius is cold and science barren. In this way it is, that learning creates a love of the profession, which can be acquired in no other way; and in no profession is such enthusiasm so essential, as that of medicine. A science, boundless in its extent; and in many respects most abstruse in its nature; built upon long-continued and repeated observation; requiring aids and helps frequently most difficult of attainment; *nothing* can be accomplished without zeal and devotion, and *with these*, it is truly astonishing what may be done. Inspired with these, even ordinary intellects have performed prodigies and left behind them imperishable monuments of labor. To the young practitioner of medicine it is hardly necessary to say, how absolutely essential it is that he should cultivate such a love of his profession. If in the uncorrupted period of his existence he do not acquire it, it is in vain to hope for its attainment in after-life. As he advances in years, other feelings and passions gain the ascendancy, and he will find, perhaps before he is aware of it, that he is pursuing his profession with no higher motive than that of gaining consequence in society, or of amassing a fortune. From such a man, science has nothing to hope, and he gives to the world and to his profession nothing but the influence of a barren and bad example.



"But, gentlemen, I must bring these desultory observations to a close. Before I do so, however, let me urge upon you, amid all your acquisitions—amid all the honors and success, which I trust may flow in profusion upon you, to *cultivate a spirit of humility and modesty*. Recollect that this is the gem, which shines the brightest in the crown of the greatest men that ever adorned our nature. Look at Newton! Although by his wonderful intellect he towered so immeasurably above the rest of mankind, yet his unaffected modesty raised him still higher in the scale of excellence. And what think you was the reason? Why, his eagle glance had pried into so many of the mysteries of nature; he had ascended Pisgah, and had seen so many of the wonders of creative power before him, that he was humbled with the consciousness of his own weakness and ignorance, and bowed with a lowly spirit before the great and incomprehensible Creator of all things. And so it ought to be, and will be with every right-minded man. The farther he advances in the path of knowledge, the less will he think of his acquisitions, and the more deeply will he feel how narrow and feeble his powers are, and how little, very little, even of the sciences well understood, he can hope to compass. I am the more anxious, gentlemen, to urge upon you the cultivation of such a spirit as this, because I am convinced it is the offspring, as well as the ornament, of true knowledge. If you possess this spirit, you will not arrogantly set yourselves up to decide upon questions beyond your comprehension. Above all, you will never suffer the pretensions of science to sit in judgement upon the Almighty. With regard to the Bible you will reason thus—Here is a book which professes to be written under the inspiration of Heaven. If it be so, (and of this the evidence is overwhelming,) every word of it must be true; it cannot be otherwise—and you will give to it your entire and unqualified belief. And you will not permit any apparent discrepancies between it and the pretended discoveries of modern science, to shake your belief. In the spirit of true philosophy as well as of true religion, you will confess that science is still in its infancy. That man's powers are at best feeble and limited, and that it would be profanity, as well as folly, to set up these against what you believe to come directly from the Almighty. Under the influence of such a spirit as this, too, gentlemen, I conceive you will best be enabled to perform all your relative duties. To your professional brethren, you will extend all the offices of courtesy and good feeling. To your patients, you will devote all your best energies. You will look upon them not merely as the subjects of scientific and professional interest, but you will sympathize with them as partakers of the same common nature, and destined to the same end as yourselves. While to the public, you will set a bright example of blended science and virtue.

"Before I close, let me throw out one word of encouragement, in relation to your future prospects. There is nothing so common for young men just entering upon life, and espe-

cially those of enthusiastic minds, as to call up to their fancies, the numerous difficulties and discouragements which are to obstruct their career. They look around them and see the whole world in action. Every post of honor and of emolument is already occupied. Every avenue to fame and fortune is already crowded with aspiring candidates. They turn with disgust from the scene—they despond, and they begin to imagine that success is impossible. Now, all this is founded on mistaken and imperfect views of human life. A few brief years will level all these distinctions. As you advance, you will find all the busy actors who now so greatly fill your imaginations and excite your fears, sinking, one by one, and leaving vacant more than enough to gratify your largest ambition. Let not, then, these considerations discourage you. Before you are aware of it, opportunities of distinction will present themselves, and the only question then will be, are you prepared to seize the proffered honor. The early part of your lives is the one, as a general rule, the best fitted for study and exertion, and if you loiter away that precious period in idle and vain forebodings, or what is worse, squander it in indolence or dissipation, you will find honor after honor eluding your feeble grasp—fortune will spurn you, and place the crown on other and worthier brows. Begin life, then, with a manly courage. Cast behind you that cold-blooded philosophy which would teach you that you are not to expect success. Recollect that it is a law of the Almighty himself, verified by the whole experience of mankind, that honest endeavor, with an humble reliance on Providence, will sooner or later meet with its reward, and you need not fear that you will be made exceptions to the general rule. It only remains for me now to bid you an affectionate farewell."

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EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS ON  
HOMŒOPATHIA, BY THOMAS  
HAYLE, M. D., OF ENGLAND.

"While I was doubting," he writes, "a copy of Hahnemann's Organon was sent to me, and being much struck with his arguments, I determined to give his medicines a trial. The great stumbling block was the smallness of the dose. I did not believe that such a dose could have any action at all; at the same time clearly saw that it could easily be proved whether it acted or not. I had only to make the experiment. Accordingly, I began with cases which I had given up as incurable, and submitted them to homœopathic treatment. I soon obtained results which gave strong presumptive evidence of the action of the remedy—results, at least, were obtained, which were attributable neither to imagination nor diet. The patients did not know what they were taking, and they had been unaffected by previous treatment. It was, of course, likely, that, if their imagination had been the cause of the improvement, this cause would have acted during the long allopathic treat-



ment which I had previously administered. As to diet, no change was made; and the duration of the treatment was often too short for it to have any influence. Many cases of amenorrhœa, for instance, of long standing, were relieved in two or three days after the treatment commenced. There were also many cases of an invariable and long-established order of symptoms, where speedy results, affecting and destroying this order, occurred. . . . The result of my trials, on cases which I deemed incurable, was, that the coincidences were strange, and so frequent as to warrant my proceeding with the trials in slight cases of an acute character."

"Nor is the evidence of the multitudes of regularly educated medical men, who have examined, approved, and adopted the homœopathic principle, to be overlooked. Many of them are men who had already reaped the highest rewards their profession could bestow, who had everything to lose, and nothing to gain, by a change, and all of them would have been entitled to the attention of the medical world, had they sought it by the publication of their ordinary medical observations in the periodicals of the profession. Is all testimony to be disbelieved the moment it testifies to facts of an extraordinary character? Is that asserted with regard to the homœopathic principle and minute doses, which Hume asserted with regard to miracles, that no testimony can prove their truth? Hume himself must have been silenced had the defenders of miracles been able to say to him what we say to you, 'We will reproduce the facts to which we testify before your eyes.' Let it be remembered that the strangeness of a fact occurring in an experimental investigation, is a guarantee for its being rigidly and jealously examined; and the reception of it by practical and well-informed medical men, is a strong argument for its truth. In speculative matters this, I am aware, would be no argument at all; but in a practical matter, where the facts are reproducible, and can be repeated with endless variations, it is of the greatest force. All, however, that is requested of you, of deference to testimony, is to inquire for yourself whether these things be so or not. It is not belief of the testimony that is asked, but a trial of it. This request cannot be consistently refused, unless it be urged that the testimony is worthless, or the facts trivial or impossible. That the facts are trivial and deserve no attention, will not be maintained by any who considers that the happiness of the healthy and the existence of the sick hang upon them. Let me then press upon you this inquiry, in perfect confidence as to the results. It is not one of a laborious or complicated character. Let belladonna in the small doses recommended by Hahnemann, be given in scarlet fever; cyananche tonsillaris, or erysipelas, especially when there is any affection of the brain; aconite, in cases of local inflammation, with inflammatory fever, and the results will be perfectly conclusive. But as a consequence of the action of the medicine in these doses being proved, and if my life were

my own, I would cheerfully stake it on the result, the admission of the homœopathic principle follows as a necessary consequence. If these minute doses have any action at all, they must act homœopathically. Take the *Materia Medica Pura* of Hahnemann, and try them on any other principle, and they will not act at all. Try them on the perfectly healthy body, they will rarely have any effect at all in a single dose. They require the presence of a peculiar predi-position before they can act; that predisposition shewing itself in symptoms similar to those produced by the medicine, in a large dose, in health. Try them on the enantiopathic principle, or that on which opium is given in sleeplessness to procure sleep, and the man will remain sleepless still. The same negative result will follow if they be administered on the allopathic principle; and thus the smallness of the dose, if it has drawn upon the system the ridicule which arises from the violation of preconceived ideas, has at least this advantage, that it discloses its principle of action, and thus proves the truth of Hahnemann's assertion. How easy, therefore, does it now become, for those who inquire into this subject, to decide upon what cost him such laborious and persevering investigation.

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This number completes the present volume of this journal. The circulation of the "American Journal of Homœopathy," is equal to any medical journal in the country. And new subscribers have been received almost daily for the last few weeks for the 4th volume, which will be published on the 1st of May next.

On account of inattention on our part, in not adhering to the terms, of payment in advance, several hundreds of subscribers are yet in arrears for the past volumes. This ought not so to be; and as some few have taken offence, at our sending bills by mail, although we had no other means at command, to remind such of their indebtedness, we intend to remedy this evil by a strict adherence to the terms.— Let it therefore be understood, that the 4th volume, not even the 1st number will be mailed to any one, unless the subscription be previously paid. The amount is so small, we do not doubt, that subscribers will most cheerfully comply with this reasonable arrangement. We have a few copies of Vols. 1, 2, and 3 at One Dollar each. Whoever desires information of the doctrines and practice of homœopathy, cannot obtain it, in a more concise form than in these volumes. Orders may be sent by mail or otherwise, to the editor, 762 Broadway.

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